

HACKER'S CREEK JOURNAL

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants, Inc.

A Historical & Genealogical Society of Central West
Virginia



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Manuscript Submissions

While electronic stories submitted by e-mail is preferable, other typed material may be submitted. Material for publication should be e-mailed and addressed to Journal Editor and mailed to HCPD at the address below. Material must be received by mid-February for April issue and mid-August for October issue.

Membership

For HCPD membership information, see the Membership Form in back of Journal.

HCPD Mailing Address:

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants

45 Abbotts Run Road, Horner, WV 26372.

Office Hours

Thurs. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.;

Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The HCPD office is closed on National, State, and Local Election Days

and on the following holidays:

Good Friday, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day,

Thanksgiving weekend; Christmas dates to be announced

Phone & Internet:

Telephone: (304) 269-7091 Fax: (304) 269-4430

E-mail: hcpd@hackerscreek.com

HCPD Website: <http://www.hackerscreek.com>

Executive Director: Patty **LESONDAK**

Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants Board (2017-2018)

PRESIDENT

Doris **DEAN**
PO Box 428
Jane Lew, WV 26378
(304) 884-7284
deldean@frontier.com

VICE PRESIDENT

J. R. "Junior" **COULTER**
28 Dayton Park Road
Philippi, WV 26416
(304) 457-2130
JRCoulter43@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Elaine **ALLMAN COULTER**
28 Dayton Park Road
Philippi, WV 26416
(304) 457-2130
allmanec@gmail.com

TREASURER

Betty Ann **NICHOLSON**
307 Cottage Avenue
Weston, WV 26451
(304) 269-1015
banicholson@shentel.net

LIBRARIAN

Audrey **MICK BROWN**
111 Mulberry Street
Weston, WV 26452
(304) 269-1142

EDITOR

Joy L. **DEFAZIO**
8017 Southern Avenue
Stonewood, WV 26301
(304) 969-9179
joy41941@frontier.com

JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT

Randall **NICHOLSON**
307 Cottage Avenue
Weston, WV 26452
(304) 269-1015
renich0217@gmail.com

Ann **WILFONG**

8098 Copley Road
Weston, WV 26452

Bertha **ALLMAN**

RR 4 Box 264D
Philippi, WV 26416
(304) 457-4170
allmanmnb@msn.com

Eva **NEWLON**

109 Rebrook Street
Clarksburg, WV 26301
(304) 622-6142
elnew109@ma.rr.com

Irma **CURTIS**

8008 Berlin Road
Weston, WV 26452
(304) 269-5002
grannyijc@gmail.com

Evelyn **ROGERS**

437 Court Avenue
Weston, WV 26452
(304) 269-6270
evyrog@gmail.com

Marjorie **PRICE**

1204 Alexander Street
Charleston, WV 25302-2406
Mprice1204@suddenlink.net

IN MEMORY



ROBERT F. MCWHORTER

Robert F. **MCWHORTER** passed away September 1, 2018, at the age of 88. Robert was born on October 17, 1929, near Jane Lew, WV, the son of Dale and Orva **MCWHORTER**.

Robert graduated from Jane Lew High School in 1947. After working 2 years at Jackson's Mill, he enrolled in Salem College and graduated from West Virginia University in 1954 with a BS degree in Recreation.

Robert married Betty Joan **SMITH** on August 27, 1952, in Masontown, WV. They had two daughters, Jane Ann **MCWHORTER EUBANKS** (Paul) of Powder Springs, GA, and Susan Lee **MCWHORTER BUELLESBACH** (Klaus) of Vernon Hills, IL, and five grandsons, Alexander **BUELLESBACH** (Erika) of Chicago, IL, Nicklaus **BUELLESBACH** (Rachel) of Orlando, FL, Kyle **EUBANKS** (Laney) of Louisville, KY, Scott **EUBANKS** (Kenda) of Atlanta, GA, and Cole **EUBANKS** of Powder Springs, GA.

After serving two years in the U.S. Army, Robert was hired by Purdue University as assistant director of The Purdue Memorial Union and Conference Center at West Lafayette, IN. He obtained his master's degree in Recreation Administration from Purdue in 1959.

Returning to WVU in 1959, Robert was the director of the Mountainlair with the task of planning the new Mountainlair, which opened in the fall of 1968. He was the 3rd director of the Mountainlair since its opening in 1948.

He became the first director of Student Activities and Educational Services at WVU in 1970 and held that position until his retirement from that full-time position some 20 years later.

After retirement from full-time status in 1988, he continued to serve WVU in numerous part-time positions as Senior associate administrator of student affairs and director of WVU Jackson's Mill.

After retirement Robert, with the assistance of Joseph **HUTCHISON** and Betty Bea **COX**, organized and presented the first WV Storytelling Festival at Jackson's Mill in 1996 and assisted in the founding of the West Virginia Storytellers Guild. He continued to serve as the director of that festival until 2002 and received numerous recognitions and awards for his contributions — both statewide and nationally.

He was very involved with **MCWHORTER** family genealogy since 1990 at which time he assisted with the insertion of replacement logs in the Henry **MCWHORTER** Cabin at Jackson's Mill. In 1993, he coordinated the celebration of the Cabin's 200th birthday with more than 200 family members attending from across the United States. For more than 20 years he has served the **MCWHORTER** Clan in various capacities as a reunion officer, spokesperson, tour guide and family historian.

Robert has donated his remains to the West Virginia University Human Gift Registry for the further advancement of medical education. Services were conducted at McWhorter United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 22, 2018.

ROBERT BROOKS GAINER, II

Dr. R. Brooks **GAINER, II**, 74, of Morgantown, died Thursday, March 29, 2018, in the J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital.

He was born June 29, 1943, in Clarksburg, West Virginia, to the late R. Brooks **GAINER** and Geraldine **HAGGERTY GAINER**.

He is survived by his daughters and their husbands, Kristin (Conrad) **HAMRICK** and Shelby **GAINER** (Jamie **WEBER**), and his grandchildren: Hunter **HAMRICK**, Abigail **WEBER**, Harrison **HAMRICK**, Avery **WEBER**, Kelcey **HAMRICK**, Henley **WEBER**, and his special grandson Captain

John **MAXELL** He also is survived by his sister and her husband, Sondra Lee **GAINER** (Dennis) **KOON**, and his niece Melissa Dawn **KOON**, as well as his Aunt Eva **HAGGERTY NEWLON NEWLON** and Uncle Bernard **HAGGERTY**, several loving cousins, extended nieces and nephews, a host of dear friends, and his large bunch of dogs and cats.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Suzanne **POWELL GAINER**, who passed away last August; and his in-laws, Deward G. **POWELL** and Ruth **LAWSON POWELL**.

Brooks graduated from Washington Irving (WI) High School in 1961, where he began his healthcare career as the first student trainer in the state of West Virginia, before attending West Virginia University. At WVU, he continued his work in athletic training and began his love of Mountaineer sports. He also met the love of his life, Suzanne **POWELL**, whom he married on June 6, 1965. Brooks was involved with the First Presbyterian Church in Clarksburg, and then in Morgantown, where he held various positions.

After graduating from WVU School of Medicine in 1969, he did post-graduate training in Akron, Ohio, before returning to WVU to complete his internal medicine residency and his fellowship in infectious diseases. Brooks joined the Morgantown Internal Medicine Group (MIMG) in 1974 and worked at Monongalia General Hospital. He was also an associate clinical professor of medicine at WVU, as well as an infectious disease and epidemiologist consultant for several hospitals and organizations. Brooks was an active member of the Monongalia County Medical Society.

In 2005, he retired from MIMG and shifted his primary focus from caring for people to caring for animals. In 2008, he began volunteering with Mountaineer Spay Neuter Assistance Program (M-SNAP). Initially a volunteer at the ReTails thrift shop, he soon began driving fundraising efforts, planning events, and later becoming the organization's president.

Brooks was a true Mountaineer fan who was a fixture at games and events and a frequent caller into the WVU sports radio shows. He was a Varsity Club member and a great supporter of the Pride of West Virginia.

Brooks lived his life committed to his passions. He loved his patients and his community: as a physician, he devoted 48 years in service, and as a citizen, he gave himself to the many organizations and charities he represented. He was always ready and willing to help out anyone in need. Brooks was forever dedicated to WI and his former classmates, and as a Mountaineer, he pledged unwavering loyalty to all teams that donned the old gold and blue. Above all, Brooks adored his wife, his family, and his friends.

A memorial service to celebrating Brooks' life was held Saturday, May 19, at Erickson Alumni Center, 1 Alumni Drive, Morgantown, WV 26505.

In Brooks' memory, the family asks that you do as he did: Love, Give, and Live. Please love and treasure your family and friends, find ways to give back to others, including animals, and always cheer loud and proud for WVU.

Finally, the family would like to thank: the staff and fans at the WVU Coliseum, the EMTs, and the staff at J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital for their attention and care during his last 12 hours; his two lifelong friends for hanging in with him until his daughters could arrive; and his friends, especially those in the animal community, for helping with his beloved dogs and cats during this very difficult time and transition. Brooks would be so proud and honored to see how many have stepped up to help in his time of need!

THE MCWHORTER CABIN—1793 – 2018

by Robert F. “Bob” MCWHORTER

Editor’s Note: On July 7, 2018, Bob sent me the text for his talk that he gave at the **MCWHORTER** Reunion just days before for inclusion in this issue of our HC Journal. Little did either of us know at the time, that it would be used here as a memorial to him and his work in preserving the **MCWHORTER** family history.

This cabin has a rich history! While it was built by Henry **MCWHORTER** 225 years ago in 1793, the history of the **MCWHORTER** family goes back many generations to, first, Scotland, then Ireland, then to America in 1730.

Perhaps I should give you a bit of family history since this is the 92nd Annual **MCWHORTER** Family Reunion weekend. Our early records go back to the 1300’s and beyond when the **MCWHORTERS** were members of the Buchannan Clan in Scotland with their castle on the shore of Loch Lomond. They were reported to have been the “harpists” for the Buchannan Clan. There were several different spellings of their name. One researcher found at least 27, with **MCWHORTER** and **MCWHIRTER** being the most common—and that was the name of Hugh and Jane **MCWHIRTER** that brought their family of 11 to America in 1730 and landed in New Castle, Delaware.

A number of their children moved south to the Carolinas and a little later, on south to GA, FL, AL, Mississippi and over the years we find pockets of **MCWHORTERS** in almost every state in the Union. Hugh and Jean’s great-grandson, Henry, built this cabin.

Henry had a most interesting life. He was born in New Jersey on November 13th, 1760, one of Gilbert’s 6 children. Gilbert died when Henry was quite young and he was “bound out” as an apprentice to a millwright, where he learned the milling trade. At the age of 16 he enlisted in the Revolutionary War and ultimately served 5 short stints in the military before he married Mary Fields in 1783 in Buck’s County, PA.

Henry and Mary had 2 sons, John and Thomas, before moving westward to Loonie’s Creek, in what is now Hampshire County, near Romney WV, which was a popular stopping off place for west-bound pilgrims. It was there that a 3rd son, Walter Fields, was born.

After 2 years at Loonie’s Creek, in 1790 Henry started on west towards the wilderness that was then under siege by several Indian tribes who were attempting to defend their hunting grounds from the white settlers.

Henry claimed 400 acres on McKinney’s Run. Why he selected that location remains a bit of a mystery. Perhaps he wanted to settle at Hacker’s Creek, but property was not available there and McKinney’s Run was the next best option. He built a log home there and lived for three years before moving to the Hacker’s Creek area where he built this cabin and a water powered grist-mill on the banks of Hacker’s Creek. Perhaps that move was triggered by the fear of Indian attacks and he wanted to be near Beech Fort, which was built in 1788 after Indians burned West Fort the previous year—or possibly at the request of the residents of Hacker’s Creek who were in need of a grist mill. Who knows?

Log cabin construction at that time utilized only hand tools such as the *draw knife, adze, splitting froe broad axe, felling axe, barking spud, cross-cut saw, etc.* Henry was well skilled in the use of all those tools after building his cabin and other structures on the McKinney’s Run property some 3 years earlier. Henry and Mary’s 3 sons were too young to be of much assistance since John, was only 9, Thomas 8 and Walter Fields 6 at that time. Neighbors may have assisted with the cabin construction project.

My thinking about the earliest cabin differs a bit from Minnie **MCWHORTER**’s description in her book, in that the cabin built in 1793 may have had only a dirt floor and boards

for the flooring, cabinets, doors, windows was not available until Henry's sawmill was added to the grist mill at a later date, and glass for the windows may not have been available the first few years. The interior of the cabin differed a bit from what you see today. I'm sure the trundle bed did not occupy such a large portion of the living area, because the entire family slept in the upper level of the cabin. Instead, there might have been a large dining table with bench seats, a spinning wheel, a small loom and a mantle attached to the large fireplace and shelves for candles and lanterns. The cabin design has two doors exactly opposite each other on each side of the cabin, which might have permitted fireplace logs to be pulled by a horse through one door to the center of the cabin to be rolled into the fireplace.

There must have been several other facilities to serve the needs of the family. Certainly there must have been a "dug-well" to provide fresh water for drinking, cooking, bathing, laundry, etc., as well as a place to keep food cool during hot summer months. A pit toilet was necessary as well as a shed or barn for cows, horses and the storage of hay and grain. They would also have had a chicken house and a fenced garden plot. There also must have been a strong paling fence to keep bears and other predators away from the cabin. A trash pit or dump was also a necessity.

In any event, Henry moved to Hacker's Creek, built this cabin and a grist mill on the bank of Hacker's Creek and lived and worked there, raised his children, and let this cabin serve the community as a school, church, community center and later as the first post office in the area west of Richmond, VA. Henry and Mary's grandson, Fields, who was still living with his grandparents, served as the first postmaster in 1829 and the town was given the name "McWhorter's Mill".

It is interesting to note that no member of the Henry **MCWHORTER** family was killed by Indians, when almost every other family had one or more slain by the regular Indian raids.

The Hacker's Creek community has had 3 names. First, *Hacker's Creek*, named for the first settler, John Hacker, then *McWhorter's Mill* when Henry was operating the grist mill, then finally, *Jane Lew*—named for the mother of the man who laid out the town, Jane Lewis. It is the only town of that name in the world.

Henry encountered some financial difficulties and sold the cabin and mill to Edward **JACKSON** in 1833 and moved back to the property on McKinney's Run—the property on which the McWhorter Church and Cemetery is located. The cabin was later sold to the Neeley family who retained the cabin for a number of years before they needed the site for a home for their son and new daughter-in-law, at which time they contacted the **MCWHORTER** family and offered to donate the cabin back to the **MCWHORTER** family—if it could be moved and preserved. At first many thought it couldn't be done, but Minnie S. **MCWHORTER** accepted the challenge and began raising funds to have it moved to the State 4-H Camp at Jackson's Mill. The 4-H camp at Jackson's Mill which was then only 6 years old and consisted of 5 acres, on which is now known as the "Historic Area" of the complex. It was donated to the West Virginia Board of Control by the Monongalia West Penn Public Service Company—now Monongalia Power Company. It is interesting to note that the original 5 acres, through the efforts of many, that included purchases, gifts, et. now encompasses 550 acres.

In 1927 the cabin was carefully disassembled, the logs numbered to assure accurate reassembly, and transported the 5 miles to Jackson's Mill and reconstructed—almost identical to the original structure. Visitors may be challenged to find the Roman numerals that were carved

into each log to assist in reconstruction. I have often reminded visitors that the logs used to build the original cabin were trees growing at the time the Declaration of Independence was signed.

One of the unusual features of the cabin is the chimney, which was built inside the log framework of the cabin to prevent Indians from knocking it in to gain access to the inhabitants of the structure. The cabin was dedicated at Jackson's Mill on August 14, 1927—first donated by the **NEELEY** family to the **MCWHORTER** family, accepted by Minnie **MCWHORTER**—then donated by a member of the **MCWHORTER** family, J. Scott **MCWHORTER**, to the State of West Virginia. It was accepted by T. P. **KENDRICK**, who was Director of the 4-H Camp at that time. Approximately 400 **MCWHORTER** descendants attended that gathering and it was agreed at that time to hold a family reunion each year on the 4th Sunday of July at the Jackson's Church.

The cabin remained the focal point of the 4-H Camp's Historic Area over the years and had been maintained in reasonably good repair until several of the original logs were showing signs of decay. In May of 1991 Dean **HARDMAN** of the Jackson's Mill staff and John **LOYD**, a member of the **MCWHORTER** family (by marriage) and County Agent initiated a project to replace the rotted logs. I joined a team of six or seven volunteers under the leadership of Dennis **MCCUTCHEON**, a WVU Extension employee with experience in restoring log structures to replace the several rotted logs in the cabin. It was decided to only use the tools that were used to construct the original cabin. Over a long hot weekend 9 new logs were hand hewed and inserted into the cabin walls.

In July of that year I attended the **MCWHORTER** reunion and reported on the cabin project and suggested that the cabin would be 200 years old in 1993 and perhaps we should plan something special to celebrate that event. All agreed, and as you might suspect, asked me to coordinate the event.

After almost 2 years of planning the Bicentennial Celebration was held over a 3-day weekend on July 23, 24 and 25, 1993 at Jackson's Mill in conjunction with the annual **MCWHORTER** reunion. Almost 200 **MCWHORTER**s attended from 20 states. A few of those attending were unsure that they were members of the family but reported that they had a most enjoyable weekend.

The celebration featured a number of activities that included a two-act play, entitled "BORDER STORY" that was written to accurately depict the life style and circumstances affecting the family and community in the late 1790's. The play was written by a local historian, Otis Lowell Reed, and presented on a hot Saturday afternoon in the livestock pavilion to an audience that numbered more than 100. Also included among the other activities of the weekend were a panel discussion of **MCWHORTER** genealogy, a bus tour of the area, rededication of the cabin to the State of WV and the collection of memorabilia and artifacts to be entombed in a time capsule to be buried under the front step of the cabin at a future date. The time capsule is to be opened in 50 years—in 2043—with a number of youngsters being assigned the responsibility for its opening. The time capsule was buried on August 14, 1993 as part of the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants annual gathering. A brass plate was later prepared and attached to the entrance stone on the airport side of the cabin giving details of the time capsule's location and opening date.

Finances for the celebration was at first a bit of a stumbling block, but contributions by area businesses and a few private donors—plus a modest registration fee enabled the weekend to remain solvent. A bank account named "The **MCWHORTER** Cabin Fund" was established and

after all expenses were covered the fund was retained for the purpose of providing necessary repairs or improvements to the cabin as well as assisting with expenses for the annual reunions. A substantial source of Income for the fund was derived from Robert D. **MCWHORTER** of the **MCWHORTER** Advertising Company—later Standard Advertising of Clarksburg. After the celebration Robert inserted a codicil to his will, donating funds to the account. Income is also derived from the sale of **MCWHORTER** memorabilia, books and artifacts as well as periodic donations from reunion attendees. This fund has served to replace the shingles on the cabin roof and install a new fence around the cabin. This fund continues to provide those services.

Today, 225 years after its construction, the cabin remains in reasonably good condition and continues to be a focal point in the Historic Area of the West Virginia University 4-H Camp and Conference Center at **JACKSON's** Mill. It should remain a source of pride for all **MCWHORTERs**—everywhere.



OVERVIEW ON USING THE HCPD WEBSITE

www.hackerscreek.com

by Patty Lesondak

Log on with your Log-in name and Password that is created and sent to you after you have paid your membership dues. After logging on, you can change your PW for your security. We do not store the PW. To login go to the bottom of page and click on **Members**, this will take you to the log-in screen. The web page is available to non-members, but members have access to all information we have on the site.

Outline of Pages

Home: First page on website telling who we are and our mission. Click on the red words to link to more information.

About Us: General information, our history, our mission statement, our location, our operation hours, the staff, contact info and a link to our Face Book site.

News and Announcements: Current news from HCPD. Subtitle is Events; this will open up with forms and info on our current events.

Library: Our physical library records and research forms

Virtual Library: Various downloads and the Don Norman Files. You will also find **Surname** research. To use this feature and connect with members with same surnames, you need to be a member.

Genie Websites: List of suggested Facebook genealogy sites

Join HCPD: Where you can become a member by snail mail or internet

Sleeth's Trading POST: Books, t-shirts and eBooks for sale by HCPD. You can order and pay by PayPal or mail a check. It is an instant download on eBooks with PayPal payment. Choose a category, and then find your book.

Member: Takes you to the member log-in page. When you receive your login info, you will be able to log in as a member. You will be able to view and download areas on the website that are only available to members. Also you will find your profile page here.

IMPORTANT: We cannot enter your surnames, you as a member must do this. The following is how. This is under member icon after logging in. Choose profile.

** The profile page is where each member can view his/her own profile when logged in. Members cannot see any other profiles. This allows you to see what information is on file and whether it needs updated. Any changes of phone number, email or address you need to contact our office. You will not be able to change this info. You can change your login and password and add surnames you are researching. Doing this step of entry of your profile names connects to the surname research found under Virtual Library. Members only can send inquires to other members. Members ID is private, but email can be sent. It is the receiving member's choice whether to answer. When they choose to answer you, then you will know who they are and be able to share genealogy information.

Questions & Queries: A place for members to be able to ask questions, make suggestions and post queries. You have to be a member and logged in to submit and answer.

History Blog: A historical blog. You may find this an interesting area, especially if you do not have Facebook. This is where many of the stories, pictures and information that are posted on our Facebook page are also listed.

Vintage Items/rare books: Items for sale. The proceeds of the sale go to the support of the library. Items change constantly. Used books can be listed here, but many times the director sends out emails with a list of the used books for sale.

Hope this outline was helpful. Please feel free to call or email should you have any questions.

Please enjoy the website. It has a wealth of information on it. If you have any questions or helpful tips, feel free to contact us at hcpd@hackerscreek.com.

Our HCPD website address: www.hackerscreek.com

Our e-mail address: Patty Lesondak, Director: hcpd@hackerscreek.com

Our mailing address: 45 Abbotts Run Road
Horner, WV 26372

Our phone number: 304-269-7091

If you have any problems with any of the above, please contact us at either the e-mail addresses or by phone.

We hope you will benefit greatly from your membership with HCPD!

GRANDPA'S HANDS

Submitted by Mary BENNETT

Artwork by Donna GRAVES



Grandpa, some ninety plus years, sat feebly on the patio bench. He didn't move, just sat with his head down staring at his hands. When I sat down beside him he didn't acknowledge my presence and the longer I sat, I wondered if he was OK.

Finally, not really wanting to disturb him but wanting to check on him at the same time, I asked him if he was OK.

He raised his head and looked at me and smiled. "Yes, I'm fine. Thank you for asking," he said in a clear strong voice.

"I didn't mean to disturb you, Grandpa, but you were just sitting here staring at your hands and I wanted to make sure you were OK," I explained to him.

"Have you ever looked at your hands," he asked. "I mean really looked at your hands?"

I slowly opened my hands and stared down at them. I turned them over, palms up and then palms down.

"No, I guess I had never really looked at my hands," I said as I tried to figure out the point he was making.

Grandpa smiled and related this story:

"Stop and think for a moment about the hands you have, how they have served you well throughout your years. These hands, though wrinkled, shriveled, and weak have been the tools I have used all my life to reach out and grab and embrace life. They put food in my mouth and clothes on my back. As a child, my mother taught me to fold them in prayer.

"They tied my shoes and pulled on my boots.

"They have been dirty, scraped and raw, swollen and bent.

"They were uneasy and clumsy when I tried to hold my newborn sons.

"Decorated with my wedding band they showed the world that I was married and loved someone special.

"They trembled and shook when I buried my parents and spouse and walked my daughter down the aisle.

"They have covered my face, combed my hair, and washed and cleansed the rest of my body.

"They have been sticky and wet, bent and broken, dried and raw.

"And to this day, when not much of anything else of me works real well, these hands hold me up, lay me down, and again continue to fold in prayer.

"These hands are the mark of where I've been and the ruggedness of my life.

"But more importantly, it will be these hands that God will reach out and take when he leads me home. And with my hands, He will lift me to His side and there I will use these hands to touch the face of Christ."

I will never look at my hands the same again. But I remember when God reached out and took my grandpa's hands and led him home.

So, when my hands are hurt or sore I think of Grandpa. I know he has been stroked and caressed and held by the hands of God. I, too, want to touch the face of God and feel His hands upon my face.

THE CIVIL WAR COMES TO (or Near) A SMALL LEWIS COUNTY COMMUNITY¹

by Dwight L. MUSSER

Submitted in 2007 – and misplaced by the editor

When Peter Croner **MUSSER** first crossed the Pennsylvania-Virginia border (1858?), the fact he was moving from a free state to a slave state was probably not much on his mind. But by 1860 he found himself in the midst of momentous events with unimaginable consequences, events which would affect his life profoundly.

John **BROWN**'s raid on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, in October 1859 sent shock waves through the southern slave-holding states. Their conviction that northern abolitionists intended to foment armed slave uprisings was graphically confirmed. Terrified slave owners placed knives and sharp objects under lock and key as they scrutinized their black ivory for any suspicious activity.

Abundant reasons to be fearful were well known. They knew that in 1791 a slave insurrection in Haiti resulted in the brutal slaughter of their French masters and the establishment of a black republic. In 1831, a slave named Nat **TURNER** had led blacks on a rampage resulting in the murder of nearly 60 Virginians, mostly women and children. Major uprising plots were foiled in Richmond and Charleston (SC) just in the nick of time. Numerous minor plots were investigated. Terrorism was a very real preoccupation throughout the South.

Lewis County, Virginia, counted 368 slaves among a population of about 7631 whites in the 1860 census. No one person owned more than twelve slaves. The relationship between master and slave seems to have been paternalistic and quasi-familial. Nevertheless, after John **BROWN**'s raid one-hundred superannuated flintlock muskets were rushed to Captain Caleb **BOGGE**s of the county militia. This move was mostly window dressing calculated to reassure the public as the arms were virtually useless. Peter **MUSSER** could not have failed to be aware of these events.

Nor could Dr. **MUSSER** have avoided the tumultuous political maneuvering that followed:

- Virginia's vote to secede from the Union on April 17, 1861. Although not a single vote had been cast for Lincoln in Lewis County in 1860, his election did not result in the violent anti-Union sentiment there that swept the deep south. Virginia delayed joining the Confederacy, even after North Carolina fired on Fort Sumter (April 12).
- Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers to coerce the seceded states back into the Union turned the tide in Virginia where a convention in Richmond voted for secession on April 17. Western Virginia, particularly the northwest section, had long-standing grievances against what they considered the planter aristocracy east of the mountains. While their pro-Union sentiments were real, they used Virginia's secession as an excuse to further their own agenda---to become a separate state. This was achieved by first declaring themselves to be the legitimate State of Virginia (since the Commonwealth had "withdrawn" from the Union) and then permitting West Virginia to break off as the 35th state. This was accomplished by a fairly complex process that involved a high degree of local participation.

¹ This story was submitted in 2007 and lost by the editor. A thousand apologies for this. Signed: Joy DeFazio

Several Lewis County men were intimately involved in the rapid fire political maneuvering. Dr. **MUSSER** could not have avoided at least some knowledge of the excitement that swept the area. Within a span of about two years the people of Lewis County lived under three different state governments! From time to time some areas were also under the control of either Union or Confederate military commanders.

One of the first strategic objectives of the Union army was to occupy western Virginia to deny the South important resources, such as salt, and to protect the main east-west railroad that ran through the northern section. Thus Union forces, mostly men from Ohio and Pennsylvania were moved into the area resulting in the first land battles to be fought there: Philippi, June 3, 1861, and Scary Creek, July 17, 1861. A far more important battle, First Bull Run, occurred far to the east, near Washington, just a few days later.

Weston, county seat of Lewis County, a small town with a population of about 820, was considered to be of general strategic importance but specifically due to the juncture of two "pikes" that passed for roads in those days. The pike from Weston to Clarksburg passed within a few miles from Musserville and was a heavily traveled route for Union troops. No important battles took place in Lewis County; however, but Weston was on the route of the two daring Confederate cavalry incursions that struck deep into nominally Union territory.

In August 1862, Gen. Albert G. **JENKINS** led 550 cavalry troops on a wide sweep through central and northwestern (W) Virginia all the way into Ohio where the Confederate flag was raised defiantly albeit briefly. Weston was one of several county seats occupied for a day or two. The five-hundred-mile foray resulted in the destruction of property, confiscation of supplies and the capture of 300 prisoners. At Buckhannon an "immense" supply of food, clothing and ordnance was encountered including 5000 stands of arms. **JENKINS** was able to supply his poorly armed troops with much-coveted rifles. At Weston he "acquired" 75 horses which were duly paid for in worthless Confederate paper.

The greatest impact, however, was psychological. The war was not something happening far away. The residents of Musserville were certainly well-aware of these activities. About a year later (April/May, 1863), a similar cavalry sweep by Generals William E. **JONES** (2,100 men) and John D. **IMBODEN** (3,365 men) ravaged central and northern parts of what was at the very moment officially becoming the State of West Virginia.

The fast-moving Confederate horsemen covered some of the same route taken by **JENKINS** again destroying large amounts of military stores. They were also successful in reaching the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks where they destroyed trains, equipment and many bridges. Notable on this incursion was the destruction of 150,000 barrels of petroleum at Burning Springs (now Wirt County). In his official report, General **IMBODEN** cited 700 prisoners taken and the collection of 1,000 cattle and 1,200 horses. Weston was occupied, and Jane Lew and Clarksburg figured in the 700-mile raid. Much excitement and apprehension could not have been avoided by all residents of the Lightburn-Broad Run-Musserville community. Unprecedented events were taking place virtually in their backyard.

Confederate raiders were instructed to not molest civilians in their homes due to the somewhat mistaken notion that many did not support the pro-Union leaders and might yet be induced to remain loyal to Virginia. Stonewall **JACKSON** pulled every political string available seeking permission to lead an army into his beloved home country and restore it to the mother state. He was convinced he could succeed where General Lee had failed disastrously in 1861.

Civilians in Lewis County did suffer random indignities from soldiers of both sides, but they were united in their fear of bushwhackers. Bushwhackers were simply criminals taking

advantage of the war to pillage and terrorize. At one time the sheriff of Lewis County resigned because shifting armies made it impossible for him to be certain which state he was supposed to be loyal to in remitting funds. Such breakdown in law enforcement left the field open for lawless elements. My grandparents, who were too young to remember anything about the war, remembered bushwhacker tales they heard from their elders who experienced the fear and uncertainty resulting from their despicable behavior.

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Former POW Medals Presented – Benny Mitchell -

Over 200 persons gathered at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center,, in Clarksburg, on April 9,1989. The purpose being to mark the first ceremony designating April 9 as National P.O.W. Day and to present former Prisoner of War captives the newly created Prisoner of War medal.

For many, receiving the P.O.W. Medals came nearly 50 years after the fact. The legislation designating April 8 as National P.O.W. Day was enacted March 30, 1988, when President Reagan signed House Joint Resolution Number 253. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was Marine Corps General Earl E. **ANDERSON**, former assistant commandant of

the United States Marine Corp. Presenting the medals were Brigadier General Glenn **WATSON**, U.S. Army (retired), Brigadier General Joseph **KNOTTS**, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), and Anthony **ALVARO**, chief, Medical Administration Service and Prisoner of War Administrative coordinator at the Louis A. Johnson VA Medical Center.

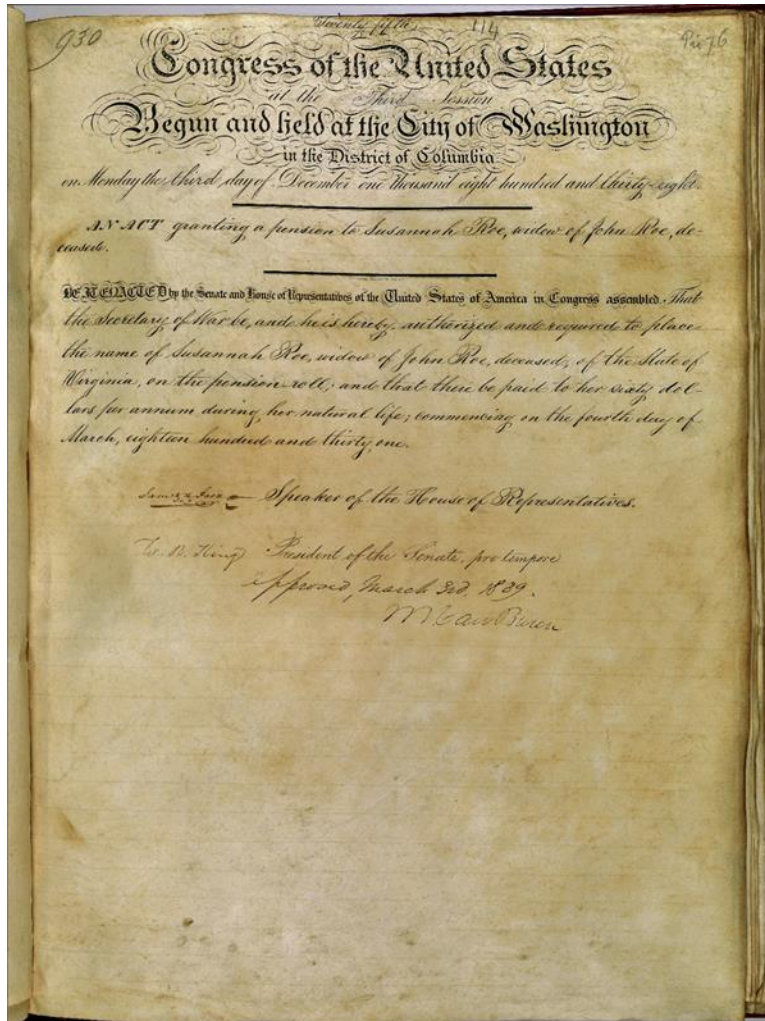
Editor's Note: I came across this in some of my files and thought it would be interesting to our members. Benny **MITCHELL** was a charter member of HCPD.

Pvt. John Roe

Third New Jersey Regt.

Revolutionary War

by William CAVINS



This is an image of the resolution of Congress bearing the signatures of James K **POLK**, Speaker of the House, Sen W. R **KING**, President of the Senate, Pro Tempore, and Martin **VAN BUREN**, President of the United States.

Numerous soldiers of the Continental Army of the Revolutionary War settled in what is today West Virginia. One such person is John **ROE**. Records from the investigation to grant a pension to his widow, Susannah, state that the location of his birth and the names of John's parents are unknown. Some researchers suggest he was born in the Colony of New York, since he lived there for a time after the war. However, it could have just as easily have been the Colony of New Jersey, since he served in its regiment. His birth is calculated as having occurred in 1758. He would have been 7 years old when protests about the Stamp Act began.

According to records on file with the National Archives, John enlisted in Morris County, New Jersey, on 4 September 1778 in Morris County, NJ, as a private in Captain Richard **COX**'s company of Colonel **DAYTON**'s Third New Jersey Regiment. He took part in battles in Springfield, New Jersey, and Jamestown, Virginia. He was one of a few three-year enlistments in the company.

From his records, it is known that from September 1778 through January 1779, his duty was "cutting wood." His duties from that time through October 1779 are unknown. However, from November 1779 through February 1780, he was a part of the Morristown Encampment at Jackey Hollow, NJ.

Records indicate he was paid 33 pounds for his service in January and February of 1780..

The Battle of Connecticut Farm, on 7 June 1780 had foiled Lieutenant General Wilhelm, Baron **VON KNYPHAUSEN**'s expedition to attack General George **WASHINGTON**'s army at Morristown, New Jersey. **KNYPHAUSEN** and Lieutenant General Sir Henry **CLINTON**, British commander-in-chief in North America, decided upon a second attempt.

Approximately 6000 crown forces under General **KNYPHAUSEN** attacked from Staten Island, NJ, via Elizabethtown, NJ, attempting to seize the Hobart Gap in the Watching Mountains and then Morristown. He was stopped by General **GREENE** with forces of approximately 2000 Continentals and NJ Militia. Although the British were initially able to advance, they were ultimately forced to withdraw in the face of newly arriving rebel forces, resulting in a Continental victory. John **ROE** took part in the climactic battle on 23 June 1780 when the final invasion of New Jersey was fought in Springfield.

The battle effectively ended British ambitions in New Jersey. Springfield became known as the "forgotten victory." George **WASHINGTON** praised the role of the New Jersey Militia in the battle, writing, "They flew to arms universally and acted with a spirit equal to anything I have seen in the course of the war."

Around January 1781, John was transferred to the First New Jersey Regiment and the old Third Regiment was disbanded.

He was detached to Johnathan **FOREMAN**'s Company on 11 April 1781. The Company was sent south to Virginia to be under **LAFAYETTE** as Light Infantry. There he took part in the Battle of Jamestown.

The Battle of Jamestown is also known as the Battle of Green Spring. It took place near Green Spring Plantation in James City County, Virginia. On 6 July 1781,² United States Brigadier General Anthony **WAYNE**, leading the advance forces of the Marquis de **LAFAYETTE**, was ambushed near the plantation by the British army of Earl Charles **CORNWALLIS** in the last major land battle of the Virginia campaign prior to the Siege of Yorktown.

John **ROE** married Susannah **MORE** on 27 March 1779, in Westfield, Essex County, New Jersey. According to Susannah's statement they stayed in Essex, New Jersey, until the Spring of 1784 when they moved to New York City, New York. They resided there until 1790 at which time they moved to Fayette County, Pennsylvania. In 1796 they moved to Harrison County, Virginia (now West Virginia). Tax records from Harrison County from 1800 to 1809 show him as John **ROE**, John **ROW**, and John **ROWE**. US Census records confirm his residency in Harrison County in both 1810 and 1820. The differences in the spelling of John's last name hampered his widow's efforts to continue his pension after his death and necessitated her reapplication.

Their union was blessed by the following children: Clarissa in Essex County, New Jersey in 1782, Lewis in New York City, New York in 1784, Elizabeth in New York City, New York in 1788, Edward in Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1791, John Jr. in 1794, Sally in Fayette County, Pennsylvania in 1796, and James in Harrison County, Virginia in 1797.

John died in Harrison County on 29 September 1829. The location of his grave is unknown. However, it is likely that it was in the Bridgeport area as his youngest son is noted as a resident of that location in 1839.

² Also called the "Battle of Old Jamestown."

Susannah **ROE** did file for a widow's pension based on John's service. US House Resolution 930 introduced on 21 Dec 1838 was adopted in 1839. It was approved by the US Senate and sent back to the House on 2 Mar 1839. President Martin **VAN BUREN** signed the Resolution on 3 March 1839.

The children of John and Susannah **ROE** married and have numerous descendants. Clarissa married John F. **FLEMING** and remained in the Harrison County area. Lewis married Frances **NEEL**. He served in the War of 1812 from New York before settling in Ohio. John Jr. married Mary **ARLINGER**. Sally married Thomas **ALLEN** and remained in Harrison County. James married Jennie **CATHER** in Harrison County. After her death he married Elizabeth **FARNEY** in Scioto County, Ohio.

A partial list of names associated with the descendants of John and Susannah **ROE** (**ROW/ROWE**) include **ARCHBOLD**, **CAVINS**, **CONSTABLE**, **FLEMING**, **GAIN**, **HARPER**, **REED**, **SMITH** and **SQUIRES**.

History of the Jackson Brigade Corporation

The First 27 Years

by Dr. Daniel C. **HYDE**

Introduction

The **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation is a genealogy and family history organization with the purpose to research, preserve and exchange genealogical information about the family who are descendants of John and Elizabeth (**CUMMINS**) **JACKSON**; and to strengthen family ties. The 70 or so members of the organization are spread across the country. The organization was started in 1991 and publishes a quarterly journal, maintains a website, and gathers for a meeting every other year. This document celebrates the first 27 years of the organization.

The Seed of an Idea is Planted!

In 1989 Linda **BRAKE MEYERS** of Byron, Illinois, first visited West Virginia where she attended a **CRISLIP** reunion in Buckhannon with her cousin Jeanette **BRAKE GUSCOTT**. At that time, about all Jeanette and Linda knew of their background was that their **Crislip** grandparents were buried at Walkersville and that their **BRAKEs** came from Lewis and Upshur Counties, eventually settling in Ashtabula County, Ohio. They both grew up knowing that they were related to Stonewall **JACKSON**. Who would have thought that that one visit to West Virginia would lead Linda on what seems to be a never-ending journey in search of the descendants of John and Elizabeth **CUMMINS JACKSON**. Shortly after returning home, Linda sent a query off to the Hacker's Creek Pioneer Descendants (HCPD) Journal and Nancy **JACKSON** of Clarksburg, WV, answered that query. Their search began, and a lasting friendship developed between distant cousins.³

In the late 1980s, Nancy Ann **JACKSON** and her brother, Jacob Jay "Jake" **JACKSON**, Jr., were researching their John **JACKSON**, Jr. line. Nancy noticed from Linda's query that she was

³ **JACKSON** Brigade Quarterly Vol. 20 No. 4 August 2012, page 23

looking for descendants of Colonel Edward **JACKSON**. Since John **JACKSON**, Jr. and Colonel Edward **JACKSON** were brothers, the two researchers had common ground.

For many years in the early 1990s, Linda and her husband Lee would drive to Clarksburg, WV in the summer to stay with Nancy for a week or two. Nancy and Linda would pore over deeds, wills, birth, marriage, death, and court records in the courthouses and research in local libraries. While Nancy searched for information on her John **JACKSON**, Jr. line and Linda on her Colonel Edward **JACKSON** line, they discovered they were finding and gathering information on all eight of John and Elizabeth (**CUMMINS**) **JACKSON**'s children. Nancy had the idea, "Why not form an association for all the descendants of John and Elizabeth **CUMMINS JACKSON**?"⁴

The Seed Sprouts - Origins of the Jackson Brigade Corporation

On August 17, 1991, at a reunion for descendants of Nancy's great-grandmother Julia Viola **HALL**, Nancy proposed during the business meeting that they form such an association. Here is what is written at the beginning of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation's Constitution and Bylaws.

"On August 17, 1991, thirty-five descendants of Julia Viola **HALL** renewed family ties with fellowship and fun at a reunion held at Valley Falls, near Fairmont, West Virginia. Julia Viola **HALL** was a great-great granddaughter of John and Elizabeth **CUMMINS JACKSON**. Linda **BRAKE MEYERS** and Gary **WIENER** were special guests for the day.

"During the business meeting it was voted to begin a **JACKSON** Association for descendants of John and Elizabeth (**CUMMINS**) **JACKSON**. Those elected to head the organization were: Nancy **JACKSON**, president, Timothy K. **JACKSON**, secretary, and Mary Lois **JACKSON**, treasurer. No vice-president was elected. Jacob J. **JACKSON**, Jr. agreed to be editor of the newsletter. The constitution and bylaws were written by the officers and editor and filed with the state along with an incorporation application signed by these individuals. On March 24, 1992, the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation was made official in the State of West Virginia. Our license has been renewed each year since 1992."⁵

Nancy was the driving force behind the effort to create the more formal organization with the expanded membership of all the descendants of John and Elizabeth. Some wanted to keep the reunion limited to Julia Viola **HALL**'s descendants and be just an informal picnic every year. Nancy recruited her brother Jake to be the editor and his wife Mary Lois to be the treasurer. Nancy's nephew Tim was elected the secretary. Linda **MEYERS** attended the 1991 reunion and was very supportive. Gary **WIENER** was a non-relative who was active in the local historical society and offered to pay for the mailing of invites to known descendants of John and Elizabeth **CUMMINS JACKSON** and the mailing of the first issue of the newsletter (free to recipients). His financial support was critical for the initial success of the organization.

Nancy contacted a Mr. **ARMSTRONG** in Charleston, WV at the Cultural Center to ask for advice on forming a family association. He encouraged her to write a Constitution and Bylaws but also to incorporate as a non-profit in the State of West Virginia. Incorporating has several advantages but most importantly it protects the officers in case of a lawsuit. Nancy wrote the original **JACKSON** Brigade Constitution and Bylaws using the HCPD Bylaws as a guide. After the 1991 Reunion, the

⁴ Phone interview of Nancy **JACKSON** by Dan **HYDE** on July 21, 2018

⁵ "Constitution and Bylaws of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation," page 1

officers and editor met at Tim **JACKSON**'s home once a month to discuss the document and make revisions. The "Constitution and Bylaws of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation" were approved at the 1992 Reunion.⁶

Earlier Sprouts - The Jackson Family Association and Reunions (1922-1941)

Linda **MEYERS** and Nancy **JACKSON**, while researching their book on Colonel Edward **JACKSON**, located the original minutes of the "**JACKSON** Clan's" reunions. The first gathering was held at **JACKSON**'s Mill in 1922. The last recorded meeting was in 1941. We suspect the meetings ended due to the gasoline rationing during World War II. Neva Irene **HARRISON**, daughter of Rella **JACKSON RINEHART**, had the minutes and papers from her mother, who was a secretary of the early **JACKSON** Reunions. She allowed Linda and Nancy to make copies of these minutes. John M. **JACKSON** transcribed the 85 pages of minutes and notes and they can be found on the **JACKSON** Brigade's website (<http://www.JACKSONbrigade.com/>). They are very interesting reading and we highly recommend reading them!

It is interesting to note that Nancy's father, Jacob J. **JACKSON**, was at one time president of this organization (The **JACKSON** Family Association), and the minutes show that Nancy attended one of the reunions when she was two years old. So, it is only fitting that Nancy and other members of her family would be instrumental in forming our present **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation.⁷

Nancy says she and Linda did not know of the earlier **JACKSON** Family Association and reunions until after the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation had been formed in 1992. We now see that the **JACKSON** Brigade picked up their preserve-**JACKSON**-heritage torch and carried it.⁸

The Purposes of the JACKSON Brigade Corporation

In 1992 the original purposes of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation were:⁹

1. To research, preserve and exchange genealogical information about the family in the United States who are descendants of John and Elizabeth (**CUMMINS**) **JACKSON**; and to strengthen family ties.
2. To publish a quarterly newsletter called the *Jackson Brigade Express Newsletter*.
3. To hold reunions on a periodic basis.
4. To receive gifts and bequests for the support of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation.

Over the last 27 years, the organization have dropped the phrase "in the United States" and changed the name of the newsletter to the *Jackson Brigade Quarterly*. Amazingly, no other changes! Basically, the organization has the same stated purposes today as it did 27 years ago.

How the organization implements some of the purposes has expanded. For example, it expanded on how they exchange genealogical information beyond publishing it in the *Jackson Brigade Quarterly* newsletter to publishing it on the web.

In 1994 with the introduction of the World Wide Web, many individuals started utilizing computers for genealogy and family history research. John M. **JACKSON** writes "[Before the

⁶ Phone interview of Nancy **JACKSON** by Dan Hyde on July 21, 2018

⁷ *JACKSON Brigade Quarterly* Vol. 6 No. 4 August 1998, Part 2, page 5

⁸ Phone interview of Nancy **JACKSON** by Dan Hyde on July 21, 2018

⁹ "Constitution and Bylaws of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation" Article II. Purposes

Internet, I did] Lots and lots of correspondence! Of course, the Internet entered the picture and revolutionized family history research. I continue to be amazed at just how easy it has become to find obscure bits of information--things that when I started, would've taken weeks or months to obtain, if it could be obtained at all."¹⁰

In August 1997 in response to this revolution, the organization decided to create a **JACKSON** Brigade website. This allowed the organization to reach a much wider audience (thousands of visits a year) than allowed by publishing the newsletter. The website did not replace the newsletter but complimented it.

In September 1997, Dan **HYDE** added an automated online query feature to the **JACKSON** Brigade website. With the online query feature, the organization added the new role of helping the wider family history community.

In January 2018, to further strengthen family ties, the organization added a social media presence for the **JACKSON** Brigade in the form of a Facebook Page and a Facebook Group. They hope to encourage people to visit the **JACKSON** Brigade website. Also, they wanted to create an online community of people interested in the family history of descendants of John **JACKSON** and his wife Elizabeth **CUMMINS** with the hope they might join and be active in the organization. Since many Americans, especially the younger set (under 60 years of age), are on social media, it seemed to be the wave of the future.

Another technology-based change for the organization was DNA testing. In October 2011, the organization started the **JACKSON** Brigade DNA Project. We have had several DNA testing successes! For more details, read the later section on the "**JACKSON** Brigade DNA Project."

The original set of purposes for the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation has stood the test of time. We have expanded on how we implemented several of them, but the core purposes are the same.

JACKSON Brigade Corporation's Activities

The **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation has roles that are found in many volunteer organizations such as a president to plan and coordinate the organization, a treasurer to handle the finances, and a secretary to deal with memberships and correspondence. However, as a modern genealogy and family history organization, we have several special major activities. One is the publication of four issues a year of the ***JACKSON** Brigade Quarterly*. Other activities are the maintenance of the **JACKSON** Brigade website, maintenance of the Facebook Page and Group social media presence, the **JACKSON** Brigade DNA Project effort, and a significant family history research effort.

JACKSON Brigade Corporation's Newsletter¹¹

As of August 2018, our newsletter completed its twenty-sixth year. The first newsletter was mailed, free of charge, to known **JACKSON-CUMMINS** descendants in March 1992. Jacob Jay **JACKSON**, a descendant of both Col. Edward and John **JACKSON** Jr., served as Editor of the publication, then titled ***JACKSON** Brigade Express Newsletter*. The text was printed on a dot-matrix printer, photocopied, and stapled. The copy work was done at PDQ Print Shop in Clarksburg, WV.

In 1995, Linda B. **MEYERS**, also a descendant of Col. Edward **JACKSON**, assumed the role

¹⁰ John M. **JACKSON**'s History of **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, July 1, 2018

¹¹ "**JACKSON** Brigade Editor's Report" by John M. **JACKSON** in Vol. 23 No. 1 November 2014

of editor, and that same year, the newsletter took on more of a magazine-style format, with advances in technology providing improved text and graphics. A regular, fixed publication schedule of August - November - February - May commenced with the August 1995 issue.

In 1999, John M. **JACKSON**, of the Henry **JACKSON** line, became responsible for having the newsletter printed in Little Rock, AR (University Printing) and mailed, and the following year succeeded Linda as Editor. Also in 2000, the publication's title was changed to **JACKSON Brigade Quarterly**. Printing and distribution moved with John to Blacksburg, VA in early 2001, with the print work performed by A-1 Copies of Blacksburg.

Beginning with the November 2010 issue, Nancy A. **JACKSON**, of both the Col. Edward and John **JACKSON** Jr. lines, became Editor and also oversaw printing and distribution. Joyce Elbon Neeley and Phillip Elbon assisted Nancy. Nancy compiled material to be used in the *Quarterly*, and Joyce served as layout coordinator. As an employee of PDQ Print Shop, Phillip took care of the printing. Nancy, Phillip and Joyce worked as a team on distribution.

In November 2013, John resumed as Editor, but printing and distribution continue to be done in Clarksburg by Nancy, Joyce and Phillip, with print work done at PDQ.

An every-name index to the first 15 volumes of the *Quarterly* is available on the **JACKSON** Brigade website (www.JacksonBrigade.com). Complete tables of contents, arranged both alphabetically and chronologically are also available and are up-to-date through volume 25.

Few changes are anticipated in the newsletter's format in the near future. In the August 2014 issue, the Editor debuted a new department on landmarks named for family members, and a new department on **JACKSON** family inventions may appear in the near future. In 2013, the organization published a special issue devoted to the topic of slavery.

JACKSON Brigade Corporation's Website¹²

The technological marvel for sharing information called the World-Wide Web, or just "the Web," became popular in 1994. A few years later in early August 1997, **JACKSON** Brigade member Dan **HYDE** agreed to create a website for the **JACKSON** Brigade. After the initial construction of the website in August 1997, Dan actively solicited material from **JACKSON** Brigade members and placed their material on the website. Over the last twenty-one years, many people, notably Nancy Ann **JACKSON** and Linda **BRAKE MEYERS**, have submitted large amounts of material for inclusion on the website. On August 1, 2012, the website had 1105 web pages and 1785 images for a total of 2794 files. Much more material has been added since the 2012 inventory. The **JACKSON** Brigade's website is fairly popular. In July 2018 the website averages about 125 different visitors each day. Clearly the website is a valuable resource.

Dan added an automated on-line queries feature to the **JACKSON** Brigade's website on September 6, 1997. On August 1, 2012, we had 618 on-line queries (not counting a lot of deleted "junk" queries). When a person submits an on-line query, an email message with the text of the query is automatically sent to Dan. He then filters out any junk queries and, by way of email, forwards good queries to the **JACKSON** Brigade Board members. Therefore, many individuals who have

¹² **JACKSON** Brigade Webmaster's Report" by Dan Hyde in Vol. 23 No. 1 November 2014; Webmaster's Report was updated in July, 2016 and again in July 2018

submitted an on-line query will receive a high quality response from one of the Board members in a matter of hours. Such responsiveness has gained the organization a lot of respect and good will.

Beginning in 1997, the **JACKSON** Brigade website had been maintained in Dan's faculty account at Bucknell University. Since Dan planned to retire in 2016, in 2013 he felt it was best to move the website's materials off the University's web server to a new home. With the impending move, Dan decided it was a good time to completely reorganize and modernize the website. With approval of the **JACKSON** Brigade Board in April 2013, Dan moved a bulk of the website materials to a commercial website hosting service (Bluehost) and completely redesigned the website's organization-and-look using a modern web software system (WordPress). At the same time, we acquired a new Internet domain name: [www.JACKSON Brigade.com](http://www.JACKSONBrigade.com). This new Internet name is a lot easier to remember and better represents the **JACKSON** Brigade organization. After a period of development and testing by Dan and other **JACKSON** Brigade Board members, the new website was officially announced to the membership on June 6, 2013. From April 13, 2013 to July 2016 we had over 16,600 unique visitors to the new website.

The new website's administration software is much easier to learn and use. It allows any authorized person to add or alter content with minimal training. The old website organization required one to be an expert in HTML and other computer technologies to add or alter content. **JACKSON** Brigade Board member Lee **JACKSON** has been trained to aid Dan in administering the new website.

The future of the **JACKSON** Brigade website is bright. More material is submitted almost every day. Visit our **JACKSON** Brigade website at: www.JACKSONBrigade.com

JACKSON Brigade DNA Project¹³

Starting about 2010, individuals contacted **JACKSON** Brigade Board members and asked if any **JACKSON** Brigade members had their DNA tested. We had to tell them, "No." In April 2011, we were approached by a Family Tree DNA's **JACKSON** Surname Group Administrator: "If two distantly related descendants of John **JACKSON** and Elizabeth **CUMMINS** would test, it would be a great help to those **JACKSON**s still looking to find their connections." The Board members decided that Dan **HYDE** would investigate what needed to be done, the cost, the issues, and the benefits to the organization.

In October 2011, the **JACKSON** Brigade Board approved the **JACKSON** Brigade DNA Project with the following goals:

1. To establish a base of DNA knowledge for others to compare to.
2. To find cousins to whom we could reach out and invite to become members of **JACKSON** Brigade.
3. To gather DNA evidence to aid in proving family connections of interest to the **JACKSON** Brigade.

After the project's approval, Board members identified two males with **JACKSON** surnames who we were confident (by research and written documents) are descendants of John **JACKSON** and Elizabeth **CUMMINS**. In November 2011, the two (Board members John M. **JACKSON** and Robert

¹³ "**JACKSON** Brigade DNA Project's Report" by Dan Hyde in Vol. 23 No. 1 November 2014; updated to 2018

Lee **JACKSON**) took Y-DNA67 tests through the Family Tree DNA company.

In July 2012, Dan **HYDE** created the **JACKSON** Brigade DNA Project web pages and announced the DNA Project to the world. See the web pages at the following: <http://www.JACKSONbrigade.com/dna-project/>

John and Lee's Y-DNA matched 66 markers out of the 67. This gives a 95% probability of a common ancestor in the last 8 generations. Since John descends from John and Elizabeth **JACKSON**'s son Henry and is 8 generations away; and Lee descends from John and Elizabeth **JACKSON**'s son John Jr. and is 6 generations away, this confirms both John and Lee's paper trails that they are descendants of John **JACKSON**. More importantly it establishes the Y-DNA for John **JACKSON** and all his direct male descendants including Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" **JACKSON**. Now males with the proper conditions can test their Y-DNA to see if they are of this **JACKSON** line and related to Stonewall.

A Y-DNA haplogroup is a collection of males who share a common, possibly ancient, male ancestor. From the tests, the Y-DNA haplogroup for the John **JACKSON**/Elizabeth **CUMMINS** line is a very common one (R1b1a2 or in the newer designation, R-M269). A large percentage of Western Europe's males are in this haplogroup! It is estimated that more than 100 million males are in the R-M269 haplogroup. Because it is a very common haplogroup, any prospective individual will need to test at least 67 markers.

In the two years 2012-2014, we had a dozen or so DNA-related inquiries where several resulted in minor successes and at least two new **JACKSON** Brigade members.

One objective is to use DNA testing to aid in identifying the ancestors of John **JACKSON**. We had hoped that Steven **JACKSON**, author of *The Irish Ancestry of Stonewall JACKSON*, Just Done Productions, 2008, would take a Y-DNA test. Steven claims in his book that John **JACKSON**'s father was Thomas **JACKSON** of Ballynarry Birches of Tartaragham Parish, County Armagh, Ireland. Then President Jane Hilder contacted Steven and he was very interested in taking the DNA test. Unfortunately, he passed away suddenly in May 2012. Jane was in contact with Steven's wife Leonora who relayed that Steven's brother Clive or Clive's son Adam may be willing to take the DNA test. We contacted Clive and he agreed to take a Y-DNA test but unfortunately, the results were negative.

The effort and money that went toward establishing our DNA baseline should continue to aid in proving family connections. We know a lot of folks want to believe they are related to Stonewall **JACKSON**! Now they have a way to verify that!

In 2016, the organization identified two living direct male **JACKSON**s of the Colonel Edward **JACKSON** line (Franklin Earl **JACKSON**) and the Samuel **JACKSON** line (Lowell Wayne **JACKSON**). Both Frank and Wayne agreed to take Y-DNA 67 marker tests. The results confirm both Frank and Wayne's paper trails are correct and that they are descendants of John **JACKSON**.

We are hopeful that we will be able to use DNA testing to break through the "Stonewall" of identifying John **JACKSON**'s parents and where he lived in England.

JACKSON Brigade Facebook Page and Facebook Group

To provide a social media presence to try to involve the younger generations, i.e., individuals younger than 60, a **JACKSON** Brigade Facebook Page and a **JACKSON** Brigade Facebook Group

were developed in January 2018. We currently have 68 members in the **JACKSON** Brigade Facebook Group. If you are interested in joining, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/JACKSONBrigadeGroup/members/>. It's too early to assess the impact to the organization from being on a social media platform such as Facebook.

Family History Research Efforts

Many **JACKSON** Brigade members are active researchers in genealogy and **JACKSON** family history. Their individual research results are written up as articles for the newsletter or items to be posted on the website. Also, several members have published books based on their research.

The JACKSON Brigade Reunions

From 1991 to 1997, the **JACKSON** Brigade Reunions were annual picnics held in a pavilion in Clarksburg City Park in Nutter Fort, four miles outside of Clarksburg, or at **JACKSON**'s Mill 4-H camp. People were asked to bring a covered dish to share. There were games for the kids and fun activities for the adults. Nancy **JACKSON**, as President, ran a Business Meeting where decisions on the organization's future were made, e.g., approval of the Bylaws and approval on the amount of the membership fee. Also, the early reunions started the tradition of having a Memorial Service for descendants (and their spouses) who had died since the previous reunion.

Because of the initial mailing of invites to known descendants around the country, the 1992 Reunion started the tradition of attendees from all over the country. The 1992 Reunion had people from the states of Kansas, Indiana, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Tennessee, and West Virginia. The organization had a nation-wide focus from the start. When **JACKSON** family researchers contacted a **JACKSON** Brigade member, they were encouraged to attend the reunions. When several family history libraries around the country started to subscribe to our high quality newsletter, **JACKSON** researchers wanted to attend the reunions to meet the articles' authors and visit the **JACKSON** related historical sites. The **JACKSON** Brigade website, introduced in August 1997, insured that our association is accessible to the growing number of researchers who use their computer for genealogical research. The reunions were the place where individual **JACKSON** researchers could meet face-to-face for the first time. To accommodate the individuals who came a long distance, Nancy **JACKSON** would run tours of **JACKSON**-related historical sites typically on Sunday the day after the picnic.

The 1998 Reunion was a special two-day event that celebrated a defining event in our family's history: the Trans-Atlantic immigration in 1748 of our progenitors, John **JACKSON** and Elizabeth **CUMMINS**. To plan this 250-year anniversary, Nancy **JACKSON**, Linda **MEYERS** and John M. **JACKSON** worked on the details for three years. They asked the West Virginia Governor to proclaim it "**JACKSON** Family Heritage Days." They received proclamations from Harrison, Lewis and Upshur Counties of West Virginia. These can be viewed by visiting "**JACKSON** Heritage Days part1" link on the website's home page.

The celebration included a Time Capsule Ceremony at Pringle Tree Park where John **JACKSON** first settled in 1768, near Buckhannon, WV; a Banquet at the Masonic Temple with speakers; the unveiling and dedication of a SAR grave marker for John **JACKSON**'s gravesite at the Historic **JACKSON** Cemetery in Clarksburg, WV.

In 1998 by a vote of the membership, the reunion was changed from being annual to biennial, i.e., every other year. Therefore, there was no 1999 reunion and the reunions were held on even years starting in 2000.

By agreement among the Board members, it was decided that every other reunion should be in the **JACKSON's** Mill area and the alternating reunions be held in a location that would be interesting to the organization's membership. John C. **JACKSON** agreed to hold the first of the "away from **JACKSON's** Mill" reunions in North Plains, Oregon in 2000. Several of Henry **JACKSON's** descendants traveled the Oregon Trail to settle in the Oregon Territories.

In 2004, the Reunion was held in Parkersburg, WV where many of John George **JACKSON's** descendants lived. In 2008 we traveled to Zanesville, Ohio where Colonel George **JACKSON** lived. In 2012 the Reunion was in Lexington, Virginia, where General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" **JACKSON** lived and taught at Virginia Military Institute (VMI). In 2016 we held the Reunion in Marietta, Ohio, which is fourteen miles up the Ohio River from Parkersburg, WV.

Starting with the 2000 Reunion in Oregon, individuals would perform extensive research on the Reunion's area and background on the ancestors who lived there. This was done partly to sell the reunion's location to entice members to attend but also to provide information for the Reunion's program in the form of tours and/or talks. These searches revealed many interesting facts and family lore of our early ancestors. For example, David Edward **JACKSON**, son of Colonel Edward **JACKSON** and Mary Haddan, was one of the leaders of the FIRST wagon train to travel up the Platt River Trail in 1830. The Platt River Trail became part of what we now call the Oregon Trail. Some historians call this expedition THE OPENING OF THE OREGON TRAIL. This David E. **JACKSON** was a famous fur trader and **JACKSON** Hole, Wyoming is named after him. John C. **JACKSON**, Co-chair of the 2000 Reunion, wrote a wonderful book about the fur trader in *David JACKSON: Rocky Mountain Fur Trader*.

From 1998 and on, the reunions were much more than a picnic where one brought a covered dish to form new and renew family ties. Reunions were multi-day affairs with banquets, speakers, tours, and other components to educate participants on our **JACKSON** heritage. The reunions still retained the traditions of a picnic, a Business Meeting, and a Memorial Service.

For the **JACKSON** Brigade Reunions from 1998 to 2018, the **JACKSON** Brigade website contains extensive material including colored images of each reunion. See <http://www.jacksonbrigade.com/reunions/>

JACKSON Brigade Corporation's Key People

The success of any organization is based on the talents and skills of the people involved. The **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation has been blessed with many very talented individuals. Some are expert family history researchers, others are published writers, and one is a computer science expert. Many possess leadership and organization skills. Over the last twenty-seven years, many people have been involved in running the organization. The organization has the following elected officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Member-at-large. Appointed are the Editor, Webmaster, and eight Branch Advocates. The elected and appointed officers plus Past President constitute the Executive Committee or "The Board." The Branch Advocates positions were initiated in 2006 to serve as advocates of their represented branch of the family of the eight **JACKSON** lines and to assist the other officers in the work of the **JACKSON** Brigade. Branch Advocates are

expected to recruit members from their line, solicit articles on their line or organize a reunion in a historical area important to their line.

Accomplishments of the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation: The author Dan **HYDE** administered a "History **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation Questionnaire" in June 2018 as well as conducted phone interviews in July 2018. Here are some quotes from responses on the questionnaire as well as remarks from the phone interviews. The major accomplishment of the **JACKSON** Brigade is "preserving the history of the **JACKSON** Family."¹⁴

We have worked to preserve **JACKSON** family cemeteries, such as the Historic **JACKSON** Cemetery in Clarksburg, WV, where John and Elizabeth **CUMMINS JACKSON** and other **JACKSONs** are buried. "We should continue to preserve our **JACKSON** Heritage and work to preserve landmarks important to **JACKSON** family history."¹⁵

"We should be proud of our lineage. It contains many prominent people. The highlights were discussed in the booklets we wrote for "**JACKSON** Heritage Days" in 1998."¹⁶ [Links to the booklets can be found on the website's home page. See www.jacksonbrigade.com - Dan]

A major accomplishment was "Preserving so much of that history by publishing it in the Quarterly. ... Publishing a high quality Quarterly such that some libraries want to collect it."¹⁷

"I think the Quarterly has also been a major accomplishment. Over the course of 26 years, we've compiled and published hundreds of pages of family lore and data and made it available in one place. I'm glad that we have copies going to a couple of major repositories so that they'll be preserved and of help to future generations."¹⁸

"I have always been impressed by the [reunions'] organization and the event planning. Speakers and presentations are generally high quality. Sometimes they are outstanding. For virtually no cost to the members, the venues range from good to excellent."¹⁹

"Each reunion is a significant event. Each represents tons of hours of preparation. Each reunion is a satisfying means of bringing members together for several days."²⁰

"For me, the 1998 reunion, marking the 250th anniversary of our family in America, will always be the single most significant event. I also think the 2004 reunion was significant, in that it coincided with the rededication of the James Monroe **JACKSON** bust at the Wood County, WV courthouse and the exhibition of artworks by Lily Irene **JACKSON**. Really, all of the reunions since 1998 have been milestones of sorts, in that many of them put our family and the association in the public eye with local press coverage and giving us contacts among local historians, historical societies, etc."²¹

"My thanks to all the folks who work so hard to make the **JACKSON** Brigade Corporation the success that it is. I enjoy being a member."²²

Case of Erroneous Identity:

¹⁴ Mary Love Berryman's History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, June 30, 2018

¹⁵ Phone interview of Nancy Jackson by Dan Hyde on July 21, 2018

¹⁶ Phone interview of Nancy Jackson by Dan Hyde on July 21, 2018

¹⁷ Jane Hilder's History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, July 1, 2018

¹⁸ John M. Jackson's History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, July 1, 2018

¹⁹ Evan Rohrbough's History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, June 25, 2018

²⁰ Evan Rohrbough's History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, June 25, 2018

²¹ John M. Jackson History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, July 1, 2018

²² Evan Rohrbough's History of Jackson Brigade Corporation Questionnaire, June 25, 2018

Mrs. John Schoolcraft

Dennis B. RODGERS

Fort Myers, FL

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Introduction

John **SCHOOLCRAFT** was a West Virginia pioneer whose immediate and extended family suffered extraordinary losses in the period from 1779 to 1781 as a result of Indian captures and killings. While those encounters are well-known in West Virginia lore, the identity of John's wife has become clouded by a modern assertion that she was an Indian woman, the daughter of the Delaware, **KILLBUCK**.

At the outset it must be said that that assertion, originating in a purported journal of Jacob **BRAKE**, completely fails to rise to the level of primary evidence and is nothing more than hearsay and speculation. Without justification, however, many genealogists have jumped to adopt it as established fact. Unfortunately, once bad facts are entered in a public family tree they are likely replicated without discrimination in many more trees. The belief seems prevalent that if something appears in a tree it must be correct. Of course, having committed to joining a bandwagon many believers will likely resist admitting that the statements they've adopted as their own are figments of someone's imagination, but that's precisely what appears to have happened.

The burden is on those who make a statement of fact, in this case that John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife was the daughter of **KILLBUCK**, to offer proof of that fact. To date no proof by primary evidence has come forth. Fully recognizing that it is usually impossible to prove the negative of a statement here that John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife was not **KILLBUCK**'s daughter, the process of considering evidence herein will be to weigh the likelihood of events occurring or not occurring.

What follows will begin with the origin of the claim that John **SCHOOLCRAFT** married an Indian woman, perhaps the daughter of **KILLBUCK**. It then considers known information about the **SCHOOLCRAFT** family and facts relating to **KILLBUCK** gleaned from contemporaneous records of his time and historical accounts. Next, circumstances in the area of the South Branch of the Potomac River in West Virginia's eastern panhandle will be examined to determine: a) the possibility of the **SCHOOLCRAFT** family and **KILLBUCK** or other Indians becoming acquainted; and b) the likelihood of John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s marrying any Indian woman, but particularly the daughter of **KILLBUCK**. Those circumstances involve events preceding the French and Indian War, that war itself, and its aftermath including Pontiac's War which followed on its heels. Lastly, known information about the **BRAKE** family and confusion over the name "**NISEWANGER**" will be considered.

Origin of Miotoka Nyeswanan as John Schoolcraft's wife

In August 1988 Edward J. **SCHOOLCRAFT**, a noted **SCHOOLCRAFT** Family researcher, met with Janet **COSGROVE**, a genealogist, at her home in Buckhannon, West Virginia. He offered the idea that the problems the pioneer **SCHOOLCRAFT** family had with Indians in central West Virginia were due to John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife being an Indian woman. Mrs. **COSGROVE** said she knew this to be true because she had proof in a journal in

her possession. She said the journal had been kept by Jacob **BRAKE** Jr. who had been a captive of the Indians and later lived near Buckhannon. She said **BRAKE** wrote comments in the journal from time to time regarding certain people and events, including dates of birth and even their respective days of the week. She said the journal contained statements to the effect that: Jacob **BRAKE** Jr.'s mother was Miss **NYESWANAN**, an Indian woman and the daughter of an Indian chief; and John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife was Miotoka **NYESWANAN**, a sister of Jacob **BRAKE** Sr.'s wife. Ed asked to see the journal and make photocopies of the pertinent parts, but Janet refused. So, her story of the journal's existence and contents is nothing but hearsay. The journal itself would be the original, primary source.

Ed published an article relating the above events in the *SCHOOLCRAFT Ancestral News*, vol. 2, no. 1, January 1989, pp. 3-19. The same article then appeared in the *Hackers Creek Journal*, "Names of Eight **SCHOOLCRAFT** Children Killed by Indians Revealed," vol. VII, no. 4, Summer 1989, pp 184-200. In that article Ed speculated that the Indian chief mentioned by Janet could have been one **KILLBUCK** who was said to have led a group of Indians living near what is now Moorefield in Hardy County, West Virginia. From those publications the notions expressed by Janet and Ed eventually spread like wildfire through the internet, so that today, as indicated above, many genealogists have incorporated those notions and appear to claim them to be true.

In addition to the substantive matters mentioned earlier, statements made by Mrs. **COSGROVE** at various times regarding the supposed journal will be tested. The conclusions will be that:

John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife was not an Indian, not the daughter of "Chief" **KILLBUCK**, and not named Miotoka **NYESWANAN**.

John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife's given name was Elizabeth.

Jacob **BRAKE** Sr.'s wife was not Miss **NYESWANAN**.

Jacob **BRAKE**'s journal, as Janet **COSGROVE** described it and its contents, probably does not exist.

John Schoolcraft

John **SCHOOLCRAFT**, whose wife was said in the above account to be an Indian, was the eldest son of Astien **SCHOOLCRAFT**,²³ whose marriage to Catherine **COUNTRYMAN** is revealed by church baptism records at Schoharie, New York. Astien and his family moved from New York through Pennsylvania to what is now West Virginia.

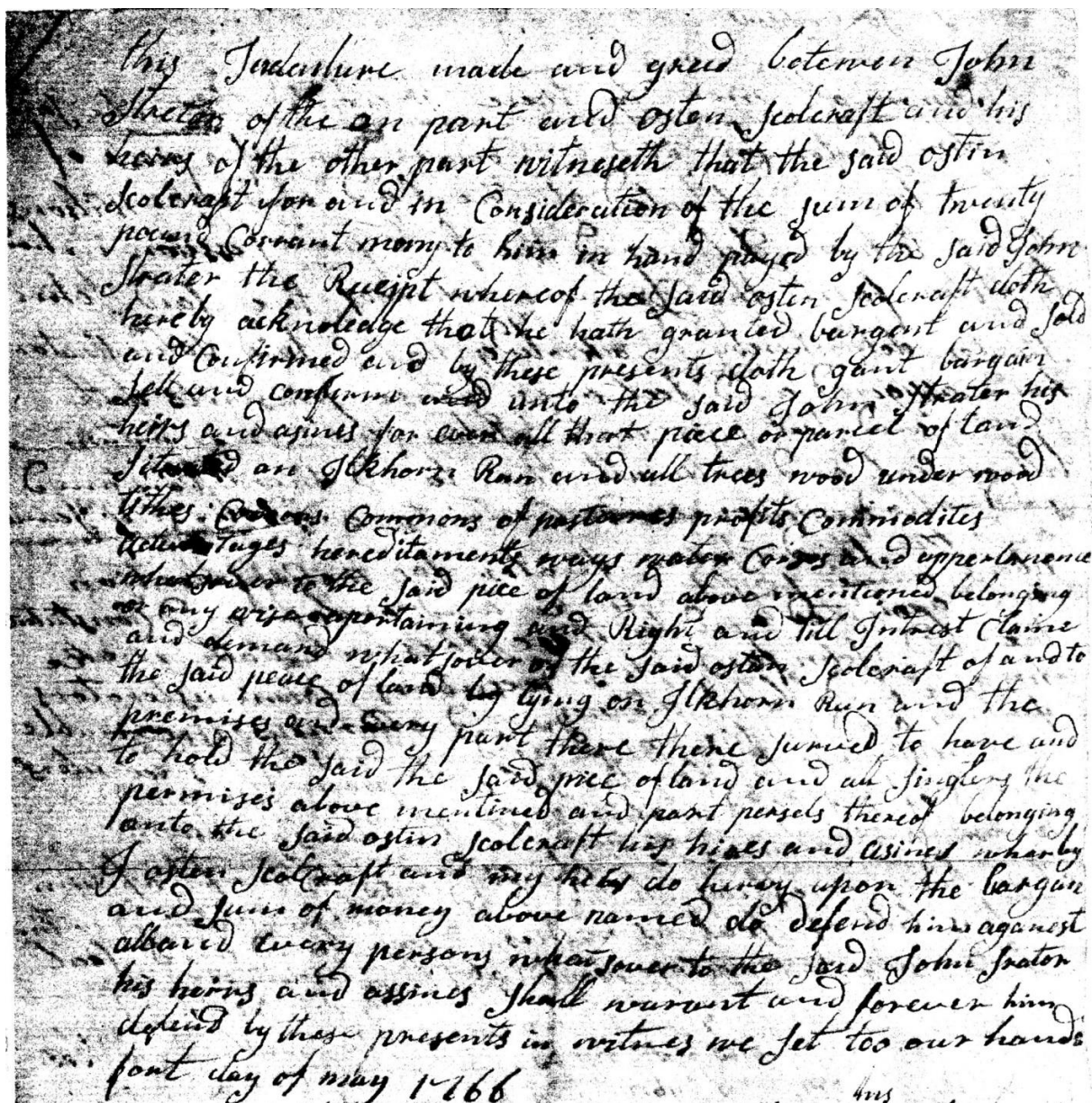
No record of John's birth or baptism in New York has been found. Two brothers were baptized at Schoharie: James on 12 August 1743 in the Dutch Reformed Church;²⁴ and Matthes (later generally spelled "Mathias" or "Matthias"), who was born 12 March 1745, on 31 March 1745 in St. Paul's Lutheran Church.²⁵ Proof that John must have been Astien's eldest son results

²³ His name also appears as Asten, Austien, Austin, Austine and Osten, but Astien is the name at his baptism on 2 April 1720 in the records of the Schenectady, New York, Dutch Reformed Church, web.archive.org/web/20120304103456/http://www.bettyfink.com/scdybap1.htm (9 Feb 2018).

²⁴ Arthur C. M. **KELLY**, ed., *Baptism Records*, The Schoharie Reformed Church, Schoharie, New York (Rhinebeck, NY: 1977) Family History Library, 974.745/S1 K29s, 11.

²⁵ Arthur C. M. **KELLY**, ed., *Baptism Records*, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Schoharie, New York (Rhinebeck, NY: 1977) Family History Library, 974.745/S1 V26k, 5.

because of the law of primogeniture which was in effect in Virginia until after the Revolutionary War. Under that provision the eldest son inherited his father's property in the absence of a contrary will. When in 1766 Astien (Osten) and his heirs assigned an interest in land on Elkhorn Run in what is now Grant County, West Virginia, John, as the eldest son, joined in the transfer to assign any rights he may have had.



This Indenture made and given between John Strater of the one part and John Scolcraft and his heirs of the other part witnesseth that the said John Scolcraft for and in consideration of the sum of twenty pounds current money to him in hand paid by the said John Strater the Receipt whereof the said John Scolcraft doth hereby acknowledge that he hath granted bargained and sold and confirmed and by these presents doth grant bargain sell and confirm unto the said John Strater his heirs and assigns for ever all that piece or parcel of land situated on Elkhorn Run and all trees wood under wood lices Commons of pastures profits Commodities Accoutrements hereditaments ways water Coises and appurtenances unto the said piece of land above mentioned belonging and demand what portion of the said John Scolcraft of and to the said piece of land by lying on Elkhorn Run and the premises and every part thereof there shewed to have and to hold the said John Scolcraft his heirs and assigns whereby the said John Scolcraft his heirs and assigns whereby and sum of money above named do defend him against all and every person whatsoever to the said John Strater his heirs and assigns shall warrant and forever him defend by these presents in witness we set too our hands this first day of May 1766

May 1766 Assignment from SCHOOLCRAFT to STRATER/STRADER – Top Portion

After Astien's death in 1780 John was named in a 1781 certificate as the heir-at-law to receive Astien's right to land on Fink's Run in what is now Upshur County, West Virginia,²⁶ adjoining

²⁶ Adjustments to Claims to Unpatented Lands, Monongalia, Yohogania and Ohio Counties, West Virginia – 1773 to 1775, Family History Library, Film # 840856, 335

land claimed by John's brother James.²⁷ Therefore, John was likely born about 1740-1741 when Astien was 20-21 years old.

font day of may 1766

John Sleeth
Catharine
John
Elizabeth

Scolcraft
Scolcraft
Scolcraft
Scolcraft

these are to Certifie the Proprietors office, that
John Sleeth Came before me, and Proved that he
was an Evidence to the above Bargain, and that the
Intent of Each Party was as is above Specified as
far as he Knows or Believes

23rd of Septemb^r 1766 Jelia Seymour

May 1766 Assignment from SCHOOLCRAFT to Strater/Strader – Bottom Portion

Astien and his family left New York sometime after Mathias' baptism in 1745 and were in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania, by 18 June 1749 for the baptism of a daughter, Catherina Lisabetha.²⁸ The next records of Astien are as a creditor in the estate of Daniel

²⁷ Ibid., 341-2.

²⁸ Mrs. C. M. STEINMETZ, trans., ed., *Records of the Host Reformed Church, Tulpehocken Twp., Berks County, Pennsylvania*, (1948) Family History Library, 974.816/T1 K2h, Film # 6049852, 2.

RICHARDSON in 1760 in Augusta County, Virginia,²⁹ and then as a claimant to the land on Elkhorn Run in 1762. Via the 1766 assignment Astien sold the interest in the Elkhorn Run land, and the family moved to what is now Highland County, Virginia, on the upper reaches of the South Branch of the Potomac.³⁰ There John and his brother Mathias obtained surveys in that year. Mathias' survey said the land was next to his father's land, though no survey appears there for Astien.³¹ In that same year Astien (Austin), Mathias and John appeared on a delinquent personal property tax list in Augusta County each showing one tithable, i.e., male of legal age, and no estate. That list is believed to be for residents in the northern part of the county which would have included the Elkhorn Run area.³² Then in 1774-75 the family moved to what are now Lewis, Upshur and Harrison Counties, West Virginia, setting the stage for the Indian encounters to come a few years later.

In addition to the land claims of Astien and James on Finks Run, Mathias settled on land in 1775 at Slab Camp Bottom on a branch of the Monongahela River called Sand Fork in now Harrison County,³³ and in that same year John settled on Stonecoal Creek, adjoining Henry **FLESHER**, on the eastern edge of present-day Weston in Lewis County.³⁴ For years there a branch of Stonecoal, now Smith Run, was called **SCHOOLCRAFT** Run. Also, some time before 1778 Astien (Osten) had settled for a time on a branch of Leading Creek south of present-day Montrose in Randolph County.³⁵ That branch too, now called Campfield Run, was formerly, **SCHOOLCRAFT** Run.³⁶ There is now a **SCHOOLCRAFT** Run near Adolph in Randolph County, but the residents there a number of years ago had no knowledge of the reason for the name.³⁷

On 24 March 1774 John and Mathias (Mathis) **SCHOOLCRAFT** signed the promissory note shown on the next page to pay fifteen pounds, six shillings and six pence in Virginia currency to Ralph **STEWART**, for value received though not identified. No due date was specified. The penal sum was double the debt, or thirty pounds and thirteen shillings. Simon **SCHOOLCRAFT**, who was likely a younger brother of John and Mathias, was a witness on the note. Any child of John and Mathias would have been too young to be a witness. All **SCHOOLCRAFT**s and another unrelated witness signed by their respective marks. On 1 June 1779 John and Mathias signed an appearance bond in a suit brought against them by **STEWART** for debt on the note. The outcome of this suit is unknown.³⁸

Also in 1774, John, James and Matthew, the last of which names may have been a misspelling of Mathias, served for 32 days in the Company of Captain Ralph **STEWART** in the run-

²⁹ Lyman **CHALKLEY**, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1989) vol. 3, 58, excerpting from Augusta County Will Book No. 2, 388.

³⁰ Note: It will be helpful to the reader to keep in mind that the South Branch of the Potomac and its tributaries flow from south to north, so that south is upstream or above, and north is downstream or below.

³¹ Augusta County, Virginia, Surveyor's Book 2, 58-9.

³² **CHALKLEY**, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish*, vol. 2, 420.

³³ *Adjustments to Claims to Unpatented Lands*, Family History Library Film #840856, 341.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, 238-9.

³⁵ Minutes of Land Commission, 1780, Augusta Historical Bulletin, Fall 1977, vol. 13, no. 2, 27

³⁶ U.S. Geological Survey Map.

³⁷ *Ibid.* Visit by Ed **SCHOOLCRAFT** and author in late 1980's.

³⁸ Augusta County, Virginia, County Court Records, formerly Canister #432, now second box for 1780.

up to Dunmore's War. They each earned two pounds and eight shillings. This company did not serve in the Battle of Point Pleasant against Indians under **CORNSTALK**, but rather it was likely engaged in the Tygart Valley of present-day Randolph County, building one or more forts.³⁹ Mathias, though, was at the Battle on October 10th of that year, serving for 82 days in William **WHITE**'s platoon of the Augusta County company of Captain John **LEWIS**, earning six pounds and three shillings.⁴⁰

24 March 1774 Note by John & Mathias SCHOOLCRAFT to Ralph STEWART

In the fall of 1779, the **SCHOOLCRAFT**s suffered a heartbreaking Indian attack. According to Alexander Scott **WITHERS** who originally wrote in 1831, while the men were away at the fort electing a captain (likely Bush's Fort in now Buckhannon, West Virginia), Indians attacked a cabin likely west of Buckhannon on Fink's Run on the land mentioned above which had been claimed by Astien. They "fell upon the family of John **SCHOOLCRAFT**, and killed

³⁹ Warren **SKIDMORE** and Donna **KAMINSKY**, *Lord Dunmore's Little War of 1774* (Heritage Books, Inc., 2002) 109. Original documents are available online: *Dunmore's War (Virginia Payrolls/Public Service Claims, 1775)* www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic, Military Service, 96 (Misabeled "Bedford County") (9 April 2018).

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 114-5. See also online at the *virginiamemory* web address above, 106 (9 April 2018).

the women and eight children, – two boys only were taken prisoner.”⁴¹ Years later Lucullus Virgil **MCWHORTER** changed the account and wrote “the Indians killed Mrs. **SCHOOLCRAFT** and eight of her children.”⁴² “Women” had become “Mrs. **SCHOOLCRAFT**,” and all the children had become hers. In 1782 a List of Inhabitants was taken in the then Monongalia County of Virginia, and John was shown with only one white person in his family -- himself.^{43 44}

Those killed were buried in a cemetery on a hillside just south of the killing site by a John **HYRE**, according to a letter from Mrs. J. W. **CALHOUN** in April 1905 who said she had “played amidst (sic) the stones in the hill and do believe they had letters on them at one time.”⁴⁵ Today the cemetery has no inscribed stones indicating **SCHOOLCRAFT** graves, only a memorial to Mrs. **SCHOOLCRAFT** and her children placed there recently by a descendant, Fred **SCHOOLCRAFT**. Also, there are several **HYRE** family graves and a memorial to John **HYRE**.⁴⁶ The **HYRE** gravestones are lying flat on the ground and have become essentially unreadable over the course of the last twenty-nine years.⁴⁷

The **SCHOOLCRAFT** family had other run-ins with Indians before and after the massacre of John’s family: His son Leonard, about sixteen years old, was captured in the spring of 1779;⁴⁸ Astien was killed and a niece taken captive in the fall of 1780;⁴⁹ and Mathias was killed and Simon and Michael were captured in April 1781.⁵⁰ These latter three were likely John’s brothers, having been at the fort at the time of the massacre, rather than John’s young sons as some have claimed.

Legend has it that the two boys taken captive at the time of the massacre were John and Jacob, and that they escaped after a few years and returned to join their father.⁵¹ A Jacob **SCHOOLCRAFT** was the progenitor of a huge **SCHOOLCRAFT** family line in West Virginia, and there is verification that pioneer John had a son named John. In 1784 John **WOLF** had sued John, the father, in debt.⁵² On November 17 in that year **WOLF** dismissed the suit, and a court entry in 1792 explains why: On April 19 the son, John, was “set at Liberty from the obligation of his servitude by which he was bound by his father’s obligation to . . . Wolf.” A witness for the son was the Stonecoal Creek neighbor, Henry **FLESHER**.⁵³ His father would appear to have been

⁴¹ Alexander Scott **WITHERS**, Reuben Gold **THWAITES**, ed., *Chronicles of Border Warfare* (The Robert Clarke Company: Cincinnati, 1895), (reprinted McClain Printing Company: Parsons, WV) 284.

⁴² Lucullus Virgil **MCWHORTER**, *The Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia*, 1915, (reprinted Richwood, WV: Jim Comstock, 1974) 147, <https://archive.org/details/bordersettlersof00mcwh/page/11> Feb 2018).

⁴³ 1782 List of Inhabitants and Buildings, Monongalia County, Virginia, data taken by Edward J. **SCHOOLCRAFT** from the original list at the Library of Virginia on 15 May 1986.

⁴⁴ Christian **SCHOOLCRAFT** also appears on the same list showing two white inhabitants. No **SCHOOLCRAFT** with that given name appears on any other early record in Virginia/West Virginia, and his identity is not known.

⁴⁵ Edward J. **SCHOOLCRAFT**, *SCHOOLCRAFT Ancestral News*, vol. 2, no. 1, January 1989, 9-12.

⁴⁶ There is a question whether this John **HYRE** had settled in the Fink’s Run area by 1779.

⁴⁷ Visits by author in August 1988 and August 2017. See Kenneth M. **TAYLOR**, *The HYRES of Tillman*, <http://pages.swcp.com/~dhickman/journals/V6I1/HYRE.html> (17 Mar 2018).

⁴⁸ **WITHERS**, *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, 282.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 290.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 310.

⁵¹ Col. D.S. **DEWEES**, *Recollections of a Lifetime* (**CALHOUN** County, WV: Eden, 1904) 21-2. **MCWHORTER**, *Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia*, 148-9.

⁵² Harrison County, West Virginia, County Court Minute Book 1 (1784-1792), 24.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, 520.

happy he returned from captivity for more reason than simply knowing he was alive. The father was able to satisfy his debt to Wolf by indenturing his son.

Son John would have been at least twenty-one years old when released from his apprenticeship, and therefore he would have been born no later than 1771. In 1833 a John **SCHOOLCRAFT** filed an application for a Revolutionary War pension, claiming extensive service. The claim was investigated, and several witnesses gave statements that in the 1780's they saw him as a boy living with John WOLF. Therefore, the claimant was the son of John, the pioneer, and he was too young to have served as he had claimed.⁵⁴

John, the father, was involved in considerable civil litigation in Harrison County, of then Virginia, usually as a defendant. From 1785 to 1792 he had disputes in court with Joseph **FRIEND**, George **JACKSON**, Peter **KINCHELOE**, and James **STUART**, and on one occasion was put in jail for two days for failing to comply with an appearance bond. His last appearance in Court was on 20 August 1792 when his case against **STUART** was dismissed.⁵⁵ Soon thereafter, as appears from evidence below, he may have removed to Kentucky.

Jno (John) **SCHOOLCRAFT** appeared on the tax list of Fayette County, Kentucky, in 1792, charged with one white male over twenty-one years of age and three cattle. The entry was made on November 9th.⁵⁶ The evidence is circumstantial, but not conclusive, that he was John, the Virginia pioneer. Probably the same John subsequently appeared on Kentucky tax lists in Garrard County in 1799, 1803 and 1804.⁵⁷ He also appeared on one list in Pulaski County, in 1802, charged with one white male over twenty-one, two horses and one hundred acres of land on Fishing Creek.⁵⁸ He was delinquent on the 1802 tax, the list saying he removed to Lincoln County, but as just mentioned, tax lists indicate he went to Garrard County.⁵⁹ In 1804, the last year he appeared, John was charged with one white male over the age of twenty-one and one white male over sixteen, but under twenty-one. The presence of a younger male in his family would seem to indicate that, if this John is the pioneer from West Virginia, he remarried after the death of his wife in 1779. Other **SCHOOLCRAFT**s on tax lists in Kentucky about that time were James Sr., who may have been John's brother, and James Jr., who most likely was the son of James Sr.

Something is amiss in the pioneer **SCHOOLCRAFT** family. Leonard became an infamous renegade,⁶⁰ and Simon petitioned for land in western Ontario, Canada, as a Loyalist.⁶¹ As shown in the petition below, Simon confirmed he was taken by Indians in 1781 and said he served under (William) **CALDWELL** in Kentucky (Caintuc). That was an expedition by the British and Indians against pioneers which culminated in the 1782 Battle of Blue Licks.⁶² Did

⁵⁴ **MCWHORTER**, *Border Settlers of Northwestern Virginia*, 150-3. National Archives #S7468.

⁵⁵ Harrison County, West Virginia, Minute Book 1, 37, 50, 74, 78, 121, 139, 167-8, 188, 199, 213, 587, 601, and 613.

⁵⁶ Fayette County, Kentucky, Tax Lists, Family History Library Film #7957.

⁵⁷ Garrard County, Kentucky, Tax Lists, Family History Library Film #7938.

⁵⁸ Pulaski County, Kentucky, Tax Lists, Family History Library Film #3209.

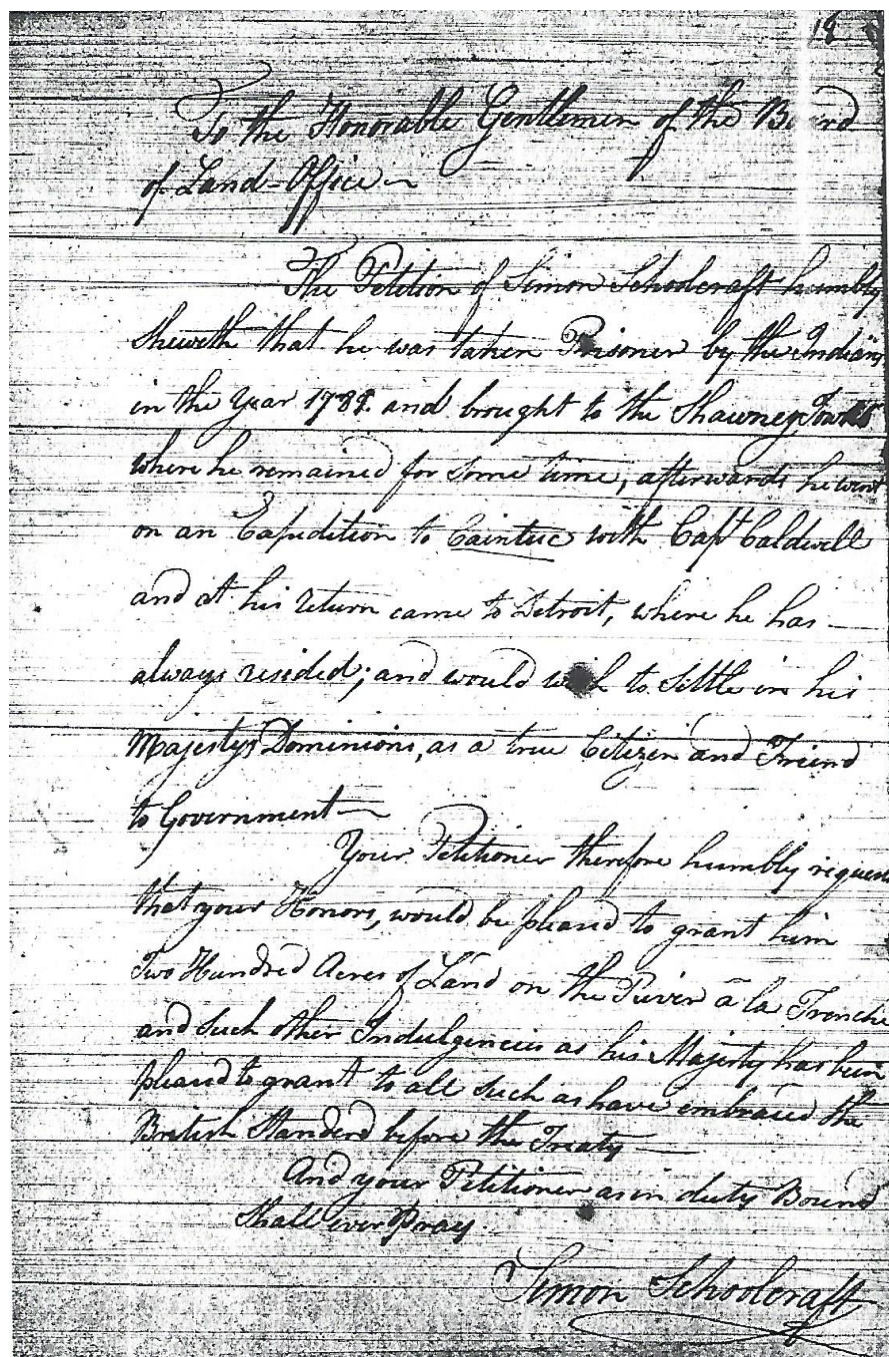
⁵⁹ Kentucky Delinquent Lands, 1796-1806, vol. 2, 370. Family History Library Film #174950.

⁶⁰ **WITHERS**, *Chronicles of Border Warfare*, 377-80.

⁶¹ *Upper Canada Land Petitions*, Library and Archives Canada, "S" Bundle Miscellaneous 1788-1794 (RG 1, L 3, "o1. Vol 493 (a)).

⁶² Ron D. **BRYANT**, *The Battle of Blue Licks*, www.battleofblueicks.org/html/history.html (4 Mar 2018).

Astien's family have Loyalist sympathies dating back to their days in New York?⁶³ Was Leonard crazed? We'll likely never know. To be fair, it is said that John's sons, John and Jacob, did not stay with the Indians.



19

To the Honorable Gentlemen of the Board
of Land-Officers

The Petitioner of Simon Schoolcraft humbly
sheweth that he was taken Prisoner by the Indians
in the Year 1789. and brought to the Shawnee Town
where he remained for some time, afterwards he went
on an Expedition to Sauratown with Capt Baldwin
and at his return came to Detroit, where he has
always resided; and would wish to settle on his
Majesty's Dominions, as a true Citizen and Friend
to Government

Your Petitioner therefore humbly requests
that your Honor, would be pleased to grant him
Two Hundred Acres of Land on the River à la Poudre
and such other Indulgences as his Majesty has been
pleased to grant to all such as have embraced the
British Standard before the Treaty

And your Petitioner as in duty BOUND
shall ever Pray

Simon Schoolcraft

Simon SCHOOLCRAFT Petition for Land 9 July 1790

⁶³ Astien's brother Christian had three sons who fought as Loyalists in the Revolution, and thereafter the family moved to Canada. Other younger brothers of Astien were Patriots.

KILLBUCK

KILLBUCK was a Delaware Indian warrior, an aide to the British, a peace negotiator, and an influential counselor to a Delaware chief known as **NETAWATWEES**,⁶⁴ whose name also appears in the following variants: Netotwhelmy⁶⁵ and Neetotwhealemon.⁶⁶ According to author Scott Paul **GORDON** and others, he was **KILLBUCK**'s father.⁶⁷ **KILLBUCK** was also known as Kill-Buck, John **KILLBUCK**, John **KILLBUCK** Sr., Captain **KILLBUCK**, and Bemino or Bemineo. Also, according to **GORDON**, **KILLBUCK** was the father of Gelelemend or John **KILLBUCK** Jr. born in 1737 near the Lehigh Water Gap in Northampton County, Pennsylvania.⁶⁸

Shortly after Gelelemend's birth his family and other Delaware Indians were dispossessed of their land in eastern Pennsylvania and moved west. By the 1750's they were living in towns in western Pennsylvania north of what is now Pittsburgh, perhaps on Beaver Creek or River, a tributary of the Ohio River.⁶⁹ It is not known when **NETAWATWEES**, and presumably **KILLBUCK** as well, migrated to Ohio, but it probably was sometime after the fall of Fort Duquesne in 1758. By the 1760's **NETAWATWEES** lived at Newcomerstown, or Gekelemukpechunk, on the Tuscarawas River in Ohio, and he became known as Newcomer.⁷⁰ He was a "sober, intelligent, peace-loving man, possessing sound judgment and strong leanings toward Christianity, although he never converted. He was respected and admired by his people."⁷¹ Newcomerstown "consisted largely of log cabins and bark huts" plus a "large Council House." **NETAWATWEES** "lived in a two-story frame dwelling with a shingled roof and stone chimney."⁷² Gelelemend became a Delaware chief for a time during the Revolutionary War, and in his later years joined the Moravian Church.⁷³ No evidence has been found that **KILLBUCK** had a daughter, although that is not an unreasonable assumption.

In the early years of the French and Indian War, which ran from 1754 to 1760, **KILLBUCK** and apparently his father sided with the French. **KILLBUCK** is said to have led Delawares as well as Shawnees on raids against settlers in the valley of the South Branch of the Potomac, in an area now comprising Hampshire, Grant, Hardy and Pendleton Counties, West Virginia, and Highland County, Virginia.

⁶⁴ Scott Paul **GORDON**, "The **KILLBUCK**-Henry Family Legend Revisited," *The Jacobsburg Record*, vol. 37, no. 3 (April 2010) 1, <http://www.jacobsburghistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/JHS-April-2010.pdf> (12 Feb 2018).

⁶⁵ John W. **JORDAN**, ed. "Journal of James Kenny, 1761-1763," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 37, no. 2 (1913) 160, <https://ia801902.us.archive.org/17/items/jstor-20085635/20085635.pdf> (12 Feb 2018).

⁶⁶ Rev. David **JONES**, *A Journal of Two Visits Made to Some Nations of Indians on the West Side of the River Ohio, in the Years 1772 and 1773* (Burlington: Isaac Collins, 1774) 68, <https://archive.org/details/journaloftwovisi00jone> (12 Feb 2018).

⁶⁷ **GORDON**, "The **KILLBUCK**-Henry Family Legend Revisited," 1.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ Alfred Procter **JAMES**, ed., *Writings of General John FORBES*, John **FORBES** to Henry **BOUQUET** (Menasha, WI: The Collegiate Press, 1938) 165.

⁷⁰ **GORDON**, "The **KILLBUCK**-HENRY Family Legend Revisited," 1.

⁷¹ C. A. **WESLEGER**, *The Delaware Indian Westward Migration* (Wallingford, PA: The Middle Atlantic Press, 1978) 26-27.

⁷² *Ibid.*, 27-28.

⁷³ **GORDON**, "The **KILLBUCK**-HENRY Family Legend Revisited," 4-7.

By the spring of 1759, however, **KILLBUCK** was providing intelligence information to the British at Fort Pitt at Pittsburgh (See “French and Indian War and Pontiac’s War” below). On the first of June in that year **KILLBUCK** spent the night with James **KENNY**, a frontier trader at Pittsburgh.⁷⁴ This must not have been his first time, as **KENNY** said he “commonly lodges with us.” The next day **KILLBUCK** dined with **KENNY** and others, telling them his thoughts concerning the French and the difference between the French and English dealings with Indians. On June 27 he sold **KENNY** some skins.⁷⁵

On July 9-10 **KILLBUCK**, described as a Councilor, was among approximately 100 Delaware and Mingo Indians who attended a council or treaty with Colonel Hugh **MERCER**, the commanding officer at Fort Pitt. A day later **KILLBUCK** brought in four Indians who told of an attack on Fort Ligonier at present-day Ligonier, Pennsylvania, about sixty miles southeast of Pittsburgh.⁷⁶

In 1761, on July 5th, **KILLBUCK** and **BEAVER KING**, a Delaware chief, had breakfast with **Kenny** at Pittsburgh. **Kenny** tried to learn when his guests would be traveling to Philadelphia for a treaty. He said on the 6th, **KILLBUCK** “used endeavors with ye Beaver to frustrate or prolong their going to this Treaty,” and that **KILLBUCK** “is very subtile (sic) and Politick.” In the same conversation **KILLBUCK** told **KENNY** he was working for Captain **CALLENDER** for \$1.00 per day to go with him to Sandusky (Ohio) with ammunition for Detroit.⁷⁷ That was Robert **CALLENDER**, a militia officer and Indian trader in Pennsylvania.⁷⁸ A couple of weeks later on July 23rd, **CALLENDER** at Sandusky on Lake Erie reported to Colonel Henry **BOUQUET**,⁷⁹ saying, “Cap **KILLBUCK** has been very Careful of (the ammunition) so is not willing to give it up untill (sic) he Delivers it to Capn **CAMPBELL** (in Detroit).”⁸⁰

Several years later toward the end of Pontiac’s War, **KILLBUCK** was involved in peace initiatives with the British, signing a letter to Colonel **BOUQUET** in October 1764 as “Capt. Kill

⁷⁴ Note: James **KENNY** was sent twice to Pittsburgh by the Pennsylvania Commissioners for Indian Affairs. The first time from 1758-1759 he coordinated the delivery of provisions to Indians, and the second time from 1761-1763 he managed a provisions store. The two journals he kept provide first-hand accounts of life at Pittsburgh and the Indians with whom he dealt, and information he learned from soldiers.

⁷⁵ John W. **JORDAN**, ed., “James Kenny’s ‘Journal to Ye Westward,’ 1758-1759,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 37, no. 4 (1913) 421-23, 425, <https://ia601902.us.archive.org/0/items/jstor-20086139/20086139.pdf> (12 Feb 2018).

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, 428-30.

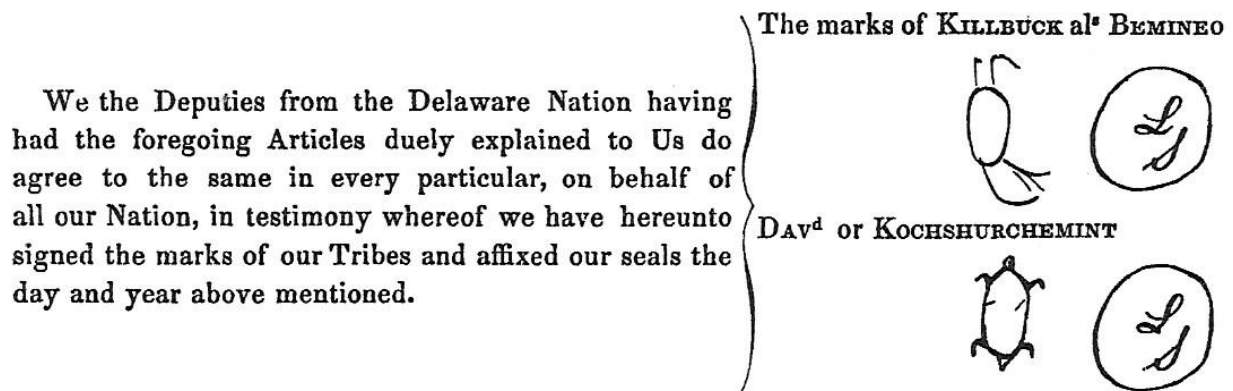
⁷⁷ John W. **JORDAN**, ed., “Journal of James Kenny, 1761-1763,” *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 37, no. 1 (1913) 10, <https://ia801700.us.archive.org/11/items/jstor-2085624/20085624.pdf> (12 Feb 2018).

⁷⁸ Founders Online, Annotation to Letter from George **WASHINGTON** to Robert **CALLENDER**, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/WASHINGTON/02-02-02-0125> (4 Mar 2018).

⁷⁹ Note: Henry **BOUQUET** was born in Switzerland and joined the British Army in 1754 to lead the Royal American Regiment made up of German and Swiss immigrants in Pennsylvania. After serving under General John **FORBES** on the expedition to take Fort Duquesne in 1758 he supervised British forts in Western Pennsylvania for a time. He was prominent in defeating and suppressing the Indians in Pontiac’s War. **BOUQUET**’s correspondence has been made available online and is a fount of information relative to his time in Pennsylvania.

⁸⁰ Sylvester K. **STEVENS** and Donald H. **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry BOUQUET*, Series 21647, Robert **CALLENDER** to Henry **BOUQUET** (Harrisburg: Pennsylvania Historical Commission, 1942), 29, <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/001262955> (10 Feb 2018).

Buck.”⁸¹ In February of 1765, **KILLBUCK** traveled to **JOHNSON** Hall at present day Johnstown, New York, the residence and headquarters of Sir William **JOHNSON**, the King’s Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the northern colonies. He was there as one of two deputies of the Ohio Delawares to reach a treaty with the British. **JOHNSON** frequently met with **KILLBUCK**, and said of him, “I have known him for some time, and his character, he appears to act verry (sic) open, and expresses himself with a freedom & plainness not usual amongst Indians.”⁸² **JOHNSON** sought his advice and relied on it.⁸³ On May 8th **KILLBUCK**, also known as **BEMINEO**, joined eastern Delaware Indians in signing a treaty with **JOHNSON**,⁸⁴ but **KILLBUCK** stayed till June encouraging the Chippewas to sign.⁸⁵



8 May 1765 Delaware Treaty – KILLBUCK’s Mark

The lower mark obviously represents a turtle, meaning that David was a member of that clan or phratry. **KILLBUCK**’s mark does not appear to represent either of the other main clans, wolf or turkey.

In April 1771, representing **NETAWATWEES**, **KILLBUCK** with his son **GELELEMEND** and another Delaware traveled to Philadelphia to present a message to Governor **PENN**. **PENN** was in the process of leaving for England, so he turned the matter over to the Provincial Council. **KILLBUCK** told its members the Delawares wanted help in preventing rum from being brought to them and that he and a delegation wanted to visit the King of England. In reply the Council said they would work toward strengthening the laws about selling rum to Indians, but, not surprisingly, added that the Indians themselves needed to resist purchasing it when given the opportunity. They ducked the matter of a delegation visiting England by referring the Indians to Sir William **JOHNSON**.⁸⁶ A letter dated April 22, 1771, from Robert

⁸¹ **STEVENS** and **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry BOUQUET*, Series 21655, Indian Reply to Henry **BOUQUET**, 244.

⁸² Milton W. **HAMILTON**, ed., *The Papers of Sir William JOHNSON*, William **JOHNSON** to Thomas Gage, 22 March 1765 (Albany: The University of the State of New York, 1953) vol. XI, 650, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=mdp.39015064814224;view=1up;seq=5> (12 Feb 2018).

⁸³ *Ibid.*, 617-19, 624, 628, 661-2

⁸⁴ E. B. **O’CALLAGHAN**, ed., *Colonial History of the State of New York* (Albany: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1856) vol. VII, 738-41, <https://archive.org/details/documentsrelativ0brod> (12 Feb 2018).

⁸⁵ **HAMILTON**, ed., *The Papers of Sir William JOHNSON*, Indian Conference, vol. XI, 782-83.

⁸⁶ Samuel **HAZARD**, ed., (*Colonial Records*) *Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg: Theo. Fenn & Co, 1852), vol. IX, 735-42, <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008698941> (10 Feb 2018).

CALLENDER to Joseph **SHIPPEN**, Secretary of the Council,⁸⁷ had served as an introduction and recommendation of **KILLBUCK** and his delegation.⁸⁸

KILLBUCK was an influential counselor to **NETAWATWEES**. Reverend David **JONES**, a Baptist minister, visited Newcomerstown in January 1773 and met with both **NETAWATWEES** and **KILLBUCK**. **JONES** said of **KILLBUCK**, he “is a sensible Indian, and uses us with part of the complaisance of a gentleman. He speaks good English . . . Soon perceived that he bore the chief sway in all their affairs, and could do more than the king himself in many things.”⁸⁹

In the early 1770’s Moravians under Reverend David **ZEISBERGER** established communities near Newcomerstown – Schonbrunn and Gnadenhutzen – and attracted Indians from the Ohio tribes. However, the Moravian missionaries there considered **KILLBUCK** their most determined antagonist among the Delawares. “He had secretly incited the people (at Newcomerstown) against (the missionaries) and made up all sorts of evil accusations against (them).” **NETAWATWEES** told **ZEISBERGER** that **KILLBUCK**, when drunk one time, said he “intend(ed) to kill the white people,” meaning the Moravian missionaries.⁹⁰ During Rev. **JONES**’ visit in 1773, **KILLBUCK** said he rejected the Moravian religion because the Moravians could not protect the Indians in time of war.⁹¹

In that conversation with Rev. **JONES**, **KILLBUCK** again, as he had with the Provincial Council two years earlier, brought up the notion of a delegation traveling to England to see the King, to tell him they would adopt his religion and desired a minister and schoolmaster of his faith.⁹² **KILLBUCK** must have thought the Delawares could get better protection and assistance from the British if they became Anglicans.

The above accounts demonstrate **KILLBUCK** was a complex person. He was politically aware and on occasion represented the western Delawares. He seemed to move easily within his limited sphere of influence, though he was naïve regarding his position relative to the British and their King. Although likely illiterate he was comfortable conversing and dealing in English with whites, even considered refined by Rev. **JONES** and responsible by Robert **CALLENDER**. Sir William **JOHNSON** relied on his advice. He was a pragmatist, changing his allegiance to align himself with whomever he thought would best protect and provide for him and his people. Yet **KILLBUCK** could be conniving and hateful as in his attitude toward the Moravians. As the stories which follow of his involvement in the French and Indian War will show, he could be cunning, deceitful and yes, savage.

He seems to have had some sense of humor. After the attack on Fort **SEYBERT**, related below, **KILLBUCK** was sitting and smoking a pipe around a fire one evening with several Indians and prisoners, including two **SEYBERT** girls who had been taken captive. Apparently **KILLBUCK** was extremely ugly and knew it. He asked one of the girls, “Tell me, which is the

⁸⁷ Founders Online, Annotation to George **WASHINGTON** Diary Entry 2 June 1775, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/WASHINGTON/01-03-02-0005-0012-0002> (5 Mar 2018).

⁸⁸ Samuel **HAZARD**, ed., *Pennsylvania Archives 1st Series* (Philadelphia: Joseph Severns & Co., 1853), vol. IV, 413, <https://archive.org/details/pennsylvaniaarch04harruoft> (10 Feb 2018).

⁸⁹ **JONES**, *A Journal of Two Visits*, 73.

⁹⁰ **GORDON**, “The **KILLBUCK**-Henry Family Legend Revisited,” 3-4.

⁹¹ **JONES**, *A Journal of Two Visits*, 74.

⁹² *Ibid.*, 74-75.

ugliest individual in this company”? She answered that her sister was; rebuking her, he said, “You lie”! She then said, “You sir, are the man.” At that he was reported to have laughed.⁹³

Possibility of KILLBUCK/Indian – SCHOOLCRAFT Connection on the South Branch

Before the French and Indian War **KILLBUCK** is reported to have spent time in the South Branch Valley and was known to the settlers there, particularly in the area where Fort Pleasant was later built in the vicinity of a former Indian village – Indian Old Fields – near present-day Moorefield, West Virginia.⁹⁴ **KERCHEVAL** told of an incident from that time, including quoting Dr. Charles A. **TURLEY**. A servant of Peter **CASEY**, who lived not far upstream from the Old Fields,⁹⁵ left his master, and **CASEY** agreed to pay **KILLBUCK** either a pistole (a piece of gold) or fourteen shillings, depending on the version of the story, if he recovered the servant. **KILLBUCK** did so, but for some reason **CASEY** refused to pay the money. The two argued, and with his cane **CASEY** knocked **KILLBUCK** down. Apparently **KILLBUCK** held a grudge for many years and even sought to kill **CASEY** during the war.⁹⁶

A footnote added in the 4th edition of **KERCHEVAL**’s 1833 work said the village at Indian Old Fields existed there from about 1700 till the first part of 1754, but that late a date cannot be correct.⁹⁷ When whites began settling that area by 1740,⁹⁸ the Indians had already abandoned the village.⁹⁹ Apparently, however, some Indians besides **KILLBUCK** on the South Branch were visiting or living in the area between the Blue Ridge and Allegheny Mountains, perhaps at Shawnee Springs near Winchester Virginia,¹⁰⁰ because as **KERCHEVAL** said, “In the spring of the year 1754, the Indians suddenly and unexpectedly moved off, and entirely left the valley (of Virginia).”¹⁰¹ Apparently, this was a result of French instigation.¹⁰² If **KERCHEVAL** is correct that **KILLBUCK** and other Indians were there and they all left, as the quoted statement seems to be saying, **KILLBUCK** would have been one of those to leave. The departure of the Indians is significant, having strong implications respecting John **SCHOOLCRAFT**’s opportunity, or lack thereof, in meeting and marrying an Indian woman!

The foregoing begs the question: Were Astien **SCHOOLCRAFT** and his family in the South Branch Valley by the spring of 1754? We know from the estate of Daniel **RICHARDSON** that Astien was there no later than 1760, and possibly by 1753 when **RICHARDSON** died, his will

⁹³ George W. Summers, “Fort **SEYBERT** Massacre,” *Charleston Daily Mail*, January 1, 1939, West Virginia Division of Culture and History, www.wvculture.org/history/settlement/fortSEYBERT03.html (10 Feb 2018).

⁹⁴ Samuel **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 4th Ed., (Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing House, 1925) 77, 82.

⁹⁵ William H. **RICE**, *Colonial Records of the Upper Potomac* (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 2012) vol. 2, 129,164.

⁹⁶ **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 77, 82.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 41.

⁹⁸ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 1 (2010), 91.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 89.

¹⁰⁰ **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 43-4.

¹⁰¹ **KERCHEVAL** indicated this statement was based on the “oral tradition of . . . ancient citizens.” Corroboration by recorded first-hand accounts has eluded the author.

¹⁰² **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 53, 68.

being filed on 7 August 1753.¹⁰³ Astien's claim as a creditor usually, but not necessarily, would have arisen before the decedent's death.

Both **RICHARDSON** and Astien had claims to land in the Northern Neck of Virginia (in what is now Grant County, West Virginia), each claim abutting the south line of the South Branch Manor.¹⁰⁴ See the drawing on the following page for both tracts shown in a wedge between that line and the **FAIRFAX** Line. Astien's approximate tract was added by the author to the original drawing prepared by William H. **RICE** which was included in his series of colonial records.¹⁰⁵

RICHARDSON had 465 acres surveyed in 1749/1750 but the grant was not made until 1756 after his death.¹⁰⁶ His land straddled South Mill Creek. Astien applied to the **FAIRFAX** family proprietary office for a warrant to survey about 200 acres on Elkhorn Run, and the warrant was issued on 13 February 1762 to John **MOFFETT**, surveyor. The survey for 109 acres, shown on the page following the drawing, resulted. It is possible Astien and his family settled on the land neighboring **RICHARDSON** before **RICHARDSON**'s death, even though Astien didn't have his tract surveyed until years later. Astien never received a grant for the 109 acres; he assigned his claim as shown earlier.¹⁰⁷ Note on the survey the mention of a "cabbin" (sic) where the **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s likely lived.

If Astien and his family did not arrive in the South Branch Valley before the Indians left and the commencement of the French and Indian War in 1754, John obviously could not have met **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or any other Indian girl there. However, it's possible they did arrive before the Indians left, and therefore it's possible that Astien's family, including his son John, became acquainted with **KILLBUCK** or other Indians.

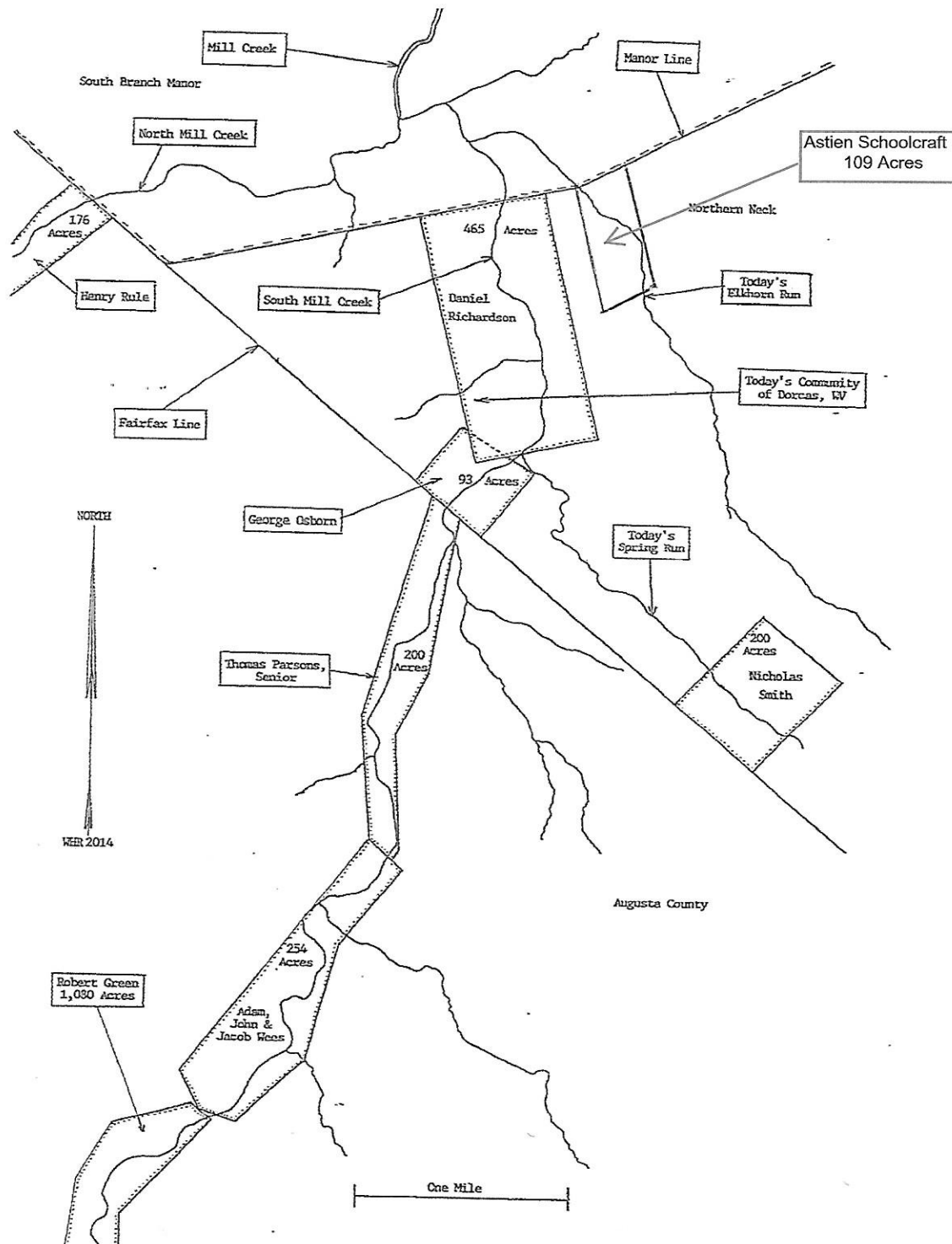
¹⁰³ **CHALKLEY**, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish*, vol. 3, 30, excerpting from Augusta County Will Book No. 1, 522.

¹⁰⁴ Note: In the middle 1600's King Charles II of England granted to some of his supporters an area in Virginia of over five million acres bounded by the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers to their headwaters. This land, which became known as the "Northern Neck," came by marriage into the **FAIRFAX** family by the 1690's. Included are the present eastern West Virginia counties of Jefferson, Berkeley, Morgan, Hampshire, and Mineral, and all but a southern strip of Hardy and Grant. A line from the headwaters of the Rappahannock was surveyed to the northwest, terminating on the North Branch of the Potomac at a point marked by the **FAIRFAX** Stone. This line became known as the **FAIRFAX** Line. Portions of the land were set aside in three manors – the Manor of Leeds east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and the South Branch Manor and the Patterson Creek Manor west of those mountains. No grants were made in the manors for many years; early settlers there were only able to rent. As for the remainder of the area, some portions were surveyed into lots, as on the South Fork of the Potomac, and the rest was available for sale as vacant land. Daphne S. **GENTRY**, "The **FAIRFAX** Proprietary in Virginia," in Peggy **SHOMO JOYNER**, comp., *Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys* (Portsmouth, VA: 1985) vol. 1, ix – xxii.

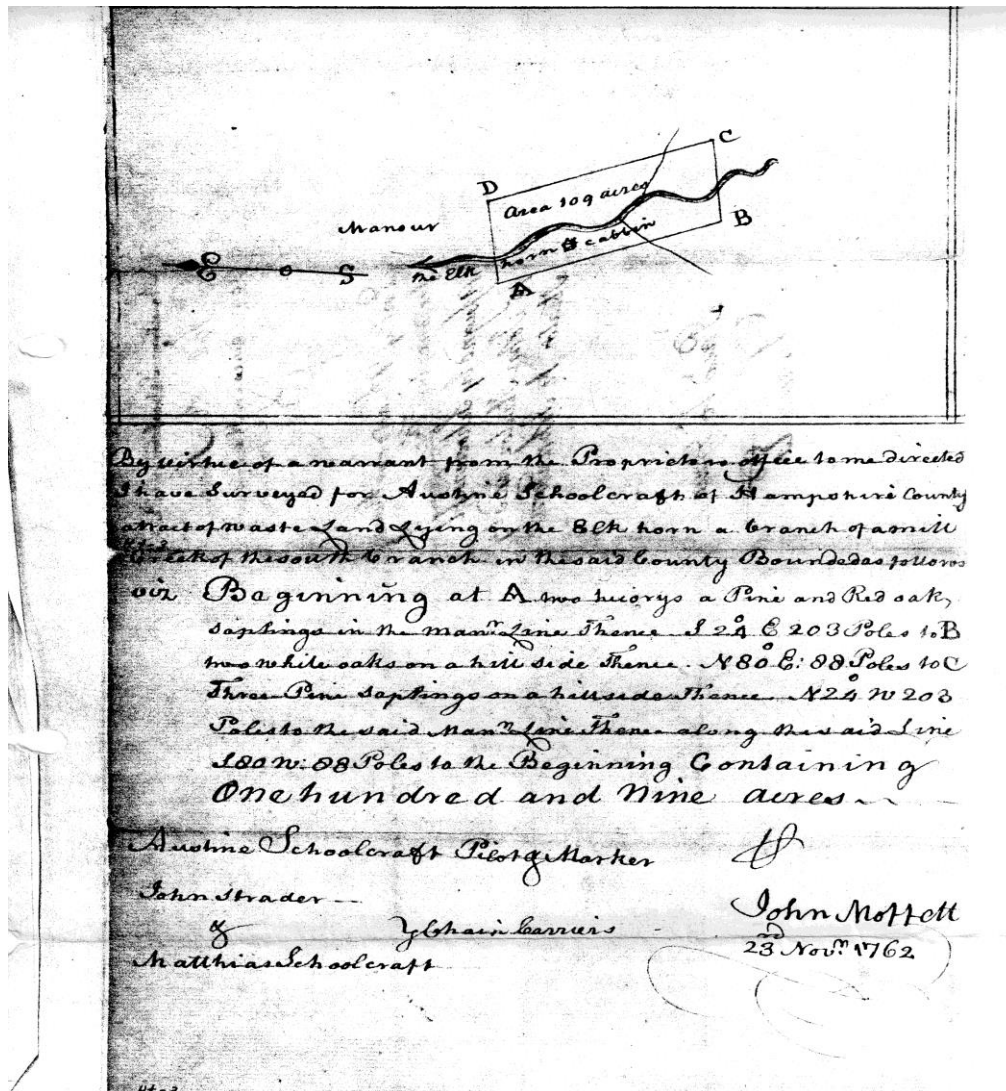
¹⁰⁵ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 4 (2014), 174. The drawing is reproduced here with the permission of Mr. **RICE**'s family.

¹⁰⁶ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 4 (2014), 173.

¹⁰⁷ The Elkhorn tract was granted in October, 1766, to John **FANN**, assignee of John **STRATER**, who had been the assignee of Astien **SCHOOLCRAFT**. The Grant, Warrant, Survey, and the Assignment shown earlier were abstracted and compiled in Joyner, *Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys* (Portsmouth, VA, 1987) vol. 4, 21. Northern Neck grants are available on line: *Land Office Patents and Grants*, www.virginiamemory.com/collections/collections_by_topic (28 Feb 2018). Original Northern Neck documents are available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.



South Mill Creek Surveys Before the French and Indian War
Dorcas Area (Estimated boundaries)



23 November 1762 Northern Neck Survey for Astien (Austine) SCHOOLCRAFT

French and Indian War and Pontiac's War

The French and Indian War and Pontiac's War were the predominant forces affecting and disrupting the lives of the settlers in the western parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland in the period from 1754 to 1765. They provide a framework for understanding **KILLBUCK**'s roles and the time in which John **SCHOOLCRAFT** reached manhood.

The French and Indian War in North America was part of a broader war involving France and England, which in Europe was called the Seven Years War. In America and Canada most Indians, other than the Iroquois, sided with the French who they believed would better protect Indian territory. There was some merit in that belief, since the British and the colonists seemed to want to possess land while the French lived and traded among the Indians, often taking Indian wives.

The focus for control of the Ohio Territory was the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, the head of the Ohio River, at what is now Pittsburgh. In the spring of 1754 Virginia Lt. Governor Robert **DINWIDDIE** sent a small group of carpenters to begin constructing a fort at the confluence. A much larger French force soon arrived, ran off the colonials and began building what became Fort Duquesne. In the meantime, **DINWIDDIE** had sent some colonials under Colonel Joshua Fry and George **WASHINGTON** to protect those building the fort. On his way in Pennsylvania, **WASHINGTON** learned of the carpenters' fate but also learned of a nearby French scouting party. **WASHINGTON** attacked and defeated the French party on 28 May 1754 in what became known as the Battle of Jumonville Glen, named after the leader of the French force. This battle is considered the first encounter of the French and Indian War. **WASHINGTON** then retreated to Fort Necessity in southern Pennsylvania, about 60 miles northwest of what is now Cumberland, Maryland, where on July 3rd he was attacked by French troops and forced to surrender the fort.¹⁰⁸

The British determined in 1755 to send to America a large force of regular troops under General Edward **BRADDOCK** who in concert with other British and colonial forces planned to strike the French decisively on four fronts. **BRADDOCK**'s portion was to lead approximately 2400 British regulars and colonial militia to capture Fort Duquesne. Their going was slow as a road had to be built for the army with its canons and baggage (**BRADDOCK**'s Road). By July 9th he reached the Monongahela River, south of the confluence, and was engaged by a French and Indian force he outnumbered by two or more to one. The smaller French force routed **BRADDOCK**'s troops which appear to have lost 1000 men killed or wounded. **BRADDOCK** himself was wounded and died a few days later. Colonel Thomas **DUNBAR** ordered the destruction of the British supplies, mortars and ammunition, and the remaining force fled back to Fort Cumberland at now Cumberland, Maryland. There he ordered a retreat to Philadelphia.¹⁰⁹

BRADDOCK's disastrous defeat at the Battle of the Monongahela and the British withdrawal left the frontier defenseless and opened the door for widespread Indian attacks on the settlers in western Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland, including what is now the eastern panhandle of West Virginia. For four years frontier settlers huddled in forts and blockhouses, although many fled back east over the mountains. Nothing is known concerning the **SCHOOLCRAFT**s during those years, although if they had migrated to the South Branch before the outbreak of war, they likely were among those living in the area who remained.¹¹⁰ No family connections back east of the mountains are known, except in New York, and the family likely had limited means for re-location. The nearest fort to the **SCHOOLCRAFT** land on Elkhorn Run was Fort George, a stockade built by 1756 on land owned by Leonard **HYRE** across the South Branch from the present town of Petersburg,¹¹¹ about five miles away.

KILLBUCK has been mentioned by many historians in connection with Indian raids and was reputed to have been a vicious warrior. He was generally said to be a Shawnee chief and the

¹⁰⁸ Fred **ANDERSON**, *The War That Made America*, (New York: Viking Penguin, 2005) 38-52.

¹⁰⁹ *Ibid.*, 64-73.

¹¹⁰ Richard K. **MACMASTER**, *The History of Hardy County 1786-1986* (Salem, VA: Hardy County Public Library, 1986) 56.

¹¹¹ William H. **ANSEL**, Jr., *Frontier Forts Along the Potomac and Its Tributaries* (Parsons, WV: McLain Printing Company, 1984) 106-08.

leader of the raids, even though he is known to have been a Delaware. Historians report Shawnees to have been the primary Indian antagonists, although attacks by Delawares and other tribes were occasionally mentioned. Perhaps the settlers and their historians did not know the true tribal affiliation of the Indian attackers. Or, perhaps the Shawnees had joined with Delawares under **KILLBUCK** in order to take advantage of his knowledge of the South Branch area and his fluency in English.

In the spring of 1756 a band of Indians traveled to the vicinity of Fort Pleasant on the west side of the South Branch near the Indian Old Fields, **KILLBUCK**'s stomping ground before the war. About a half a mile below the fort was an area called the "Trough" because of the steep inclines on both sides of the river. To engage the Indians sixteen to eighteen men left Town Fort on the other side of the River and about two miles upstream from Fort Pleasant. They were ambushed in the Trough, and in a desperate fight seven of the whites were killed and four wounded, while three Indians were killed and several wounded. Captain Thomas Waggoner was the commander at Fort Pleasant, and he refused to allow the soldiers there to aid in the battle. Reportedly the river was very high, and his men could not reach the east side. Mr. **VANMETER**, an old man, rode his horse to a high ridge and witnessed the battle. In a footnote **KERCHEVAL** said "Messrs. **VANMETER**, McNeill and Heath detailed the particulars" to him.¹¹²

A Dr. Charles A. **TURLEY** related to **KERCHEVAL** that **KILLBUCK** had been the leader of the band of Delaware and Shawnee Indians at the Trough.¹¹³ Dr. **TURLEY** said that Colonel Vincent Williams and Benjamin **CASEY** visited **KILLBUCK** in Ohio after he had become old and blind, and **KILLBUCK** told them of the battle at the Trough among other things. Learning that Peter **CASEY** was Benjamin's father, **KILLBUCK** asked Benjamin for the money owed by his father.¹¹⁴ **KERCHEVAL** reported he was told that **KILLBUCK** was still living about fourteen years before he published his book (1833).¹¹⁵ That would have been about 1819, and **KILLBUCK** likely would have seen a century.

Two years after the Trough battle, in the spring of 1758, **KILLBUCK** and a band of Indians came to attack Fort Seybert on the South Fork of the South Branch, about twelve miles northeast of what is now Franklin, West Virginia, in Pendleton County. The previous day Indians had attacked and destroyed a fort nearby at Upper Tract. Speaking English to Captain Jacob **SEYBERT**, **KILLBUCK** proposed not to harm the occupants of the fort if they surrendered, which they did. Accounts vary but from ten to twenty-four white people were bound and taken prisoner. Contrary to **KILLBUCK**'s promise all the others were massacred, except at least one who escaped. James **DYER**, a fourteen-year old boy, and Nicholas **SEYBERT**, who was about fifteen, were among those taken prisoners. Later they returned to the South Fork, no doubt relating the earlier events at the fort and telling of **KILLBUCK**'s involvement.¹¹⁶ A list of those killed and

¹¹² **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 74-5. See also **MACMASTER**, *The History of Hardy County 1786-1986*, 41-45; and **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 6 (2016) 63-66.

¹¹³ **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 75.

¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 77.

¹¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 83. Note: His son Gelelemend died on February 17, 1811; **GORDON**, "The **KILLBUCK**-Henry Family Legend Revisited," 8.

¹¹⁶ **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 91-2. See also Greg Adamson, "Fort Seybert" and "**KILLBUCK**," e-WV, *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*, 2 March and 3 December 2015, www.encyclopedia.org/articles/2055 and www.encyclopedia.org/articles/1205 (23 Feb 2018).

taken captive at the two forts with annotative notes is included in **RICE**'s Colonial Records series.¹¹⁷

Sometime, probably in 1758, **KILLBUCK** is said to have attempted by deceit to take Fort Cumberland. Leading a large force of Indians, he approached the fort and feigning friendship, proposed that he and his warriors should enter the fort for an amiable discussion. Major **LIVINGSTON** seemingly accepted the proposal and opened the gates. As soon as **KILLBUCK** and his chief officers entered, the gates were shut, and **KILLBUCK** was charged with his treacherous design. Some "mark of humiliating disgrace" was inflicted on the Indians who were released without further punishment.¹¹⁸ **KERCHEVAL** said the "venerable John **TOMLINSON**" gave him the above information.¹¹⁹

In the fall of 1758, General John **FORBES** led a British force of more than five thousand regulars and provincial militia across a new road in Pennsylvania, "Forbes Road," to drive the French from the Ohio valley. Through the efforts of Christian Frederick **POST**, a Delaware-speaking Moravian minister, the Treaty of Easton was reached in late October with many tribes including the western Delawares who then lay down their arms. The French, having no hope of defending Fort Duquesne without Indian support, destroyed and abandoned the fort, leaving the site for the British to build Fort Pitt. This resulted in a period of relative freedom from attacks for the people in the South Branch area.¹²⁰

However, the French still held a fort at Presque Isle in Pennsylvania on Lake Erie, and two forts between there and Fort Pitt: Fort Le Boeuf and Fort Machault at the Indian town of Venango. (Contemporary records refer to this latter fort as "Venango.") Indians living in Ohio and Pennsylvania continued to visit the French. From January to July of 1759 letters from Colonel **MERCER** at Fort Pitt to Colonel **BOUQUET** reveal he anticipated a French attack from the north and was very concerned where the loyalties of the Delawares and other Indians would lie.¹²¹ At the same time the French at Venango were expecting the British to proceed up the river from Fort Pitt.¹²² Colonel **MERCER** engaged **KILLBUCK** in late April and early May 1759 to obtain intelligence about the French and the Delaware and Mingo Indians at Venango.¹²³ Perhaps **KILLBUCK** saw the fall of Fort Duquesne as an omen of France's fortune and decided to hedge his bets by working with the British.

The threat of an attack on Fort Pitt was removed in the nick of time in July of 1759 when the British and allied Iroquois warriors laid siege to Fort Niagara on Lake Ontario near present-day Youngstown, New York, which had been the French gateway to the Great Lakes. At Venango the French had gathered about seven hundred of their force plus about four hundred Indians from numerous tribes and were ready to mount an attack on Fort Pitt when word came to them of the British threat to Fort Niagara.¹²⁴ Many of the French in Pennsylvania and some Indians went to the relief of Fort Niagara but were defeated about two miles south of the fort in the battle at La

¹¹⁷ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 6 (2016) 129-35.

¹¹⁸ **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 82.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*, footnote, 82.

¹²⁰ **ANDERSON**, *The War That Made America*, 163-72.

¹²¹ **STEVENS** and **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry BOUQUET*, Series 21644, Part I.

¹²² *Ibid.*, Indian Intelligence, 117-9.

¹²³ *Ibid.*

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, George **CROGHAN** to John **STANWIX**, 191-3.

Belle-Famille, a clearing in the forest. Two days later the fort was surrendered to the British.¹²⁵ Soon the French abandoned the forts between Fort Pitt and Lake Erie, thus ending any significant French influence on the Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia frontier. The war in North America came to an end upon the surrender of Montreal to the British in September 1760, but the broader war continued until the Treaty of Paris in early 1763.

Through August of 1759 the Delawares, western Senacas (Mingos) and Shawnees continued sporadic attacks on the whites, stealing horses and killing traders and others, especially in what is now western Pennsylvania. One example of this involved **KILLBUCK** who had come to the British professing to be their friend and offering his help. Toward the end of that August he became a villain as the leader of a party of Indians who stole sixteen horses and killed and scalped a wagon driver near Fort Ligonier. **KILLBUCK** blamed a Mingo Indian who was in his party.¹²⁶ One suspects that **KILLBUCK**'s overture of friendship and offer of assistance to the British may have been duplicitous. (How reliable was the intelligence he furnished to Colonel **MERCER**?)

Beginning with conferences held in late 1758, the western Indians had repeatedly told the British that after the French were defeated they wanted the whites to leave and go back over the mountains, and indeed the British agreed in the 1758 Treaty of Easton to prevent whites from settling west of the Alleghenies. Even though relative peace with the Indians ensued with the loss of French influence, the British presence west of those mountains remained a thorn in the side of the western tribes.

In 1762 the peace began to unravel. In March of that year **KILLBUCK** was at Fort Pitt and reported that Shawnees had killed some white people in Virginia, an account which was verified by traders.¹²⁷ The British, distrusting the Indians, began restricting the amount of lead and gunpowder that traders could sell to them. This caused resentment and hardship, because the Indians relied on their guns to provide food for their families and skins for trading.¹²⁸ The British buildup around Fort Pitt and the sites north of there, after their abandonment by the French, showed the Indians that the British, contrary to the treaty, intended to stay. On November 20, 1761, James Kenny said there were 150 houses in Pittsburgh, whereas two years earlier there were only a couple.¹²⁹

The Indians were especially incensed when word came to them of the terms of the Treaty of Paris giving French Canada and all of America east of the Mississippi River to the British. According to the afore-mentioned Christian Frederick **POST**, who for a time lived among the Ohio Indians, **NETAWATWEES** "was Struck dumb for a considerable time" after hearing of the Paris Treaty. **POST** quoted him as saying, "(Y)e English was grown too powerfull (sic) & seemed as if they would be too Strong for God himself."¹³⁰

¹²⁵ **ANDERSON**, *The War That Made America*, 184-8.

¹²⁶ **STEVENS** and **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry BOUQUET*, Series 21652, Henry **BOUQUET** to Hugh **MERCER** and Henry **BOUQUET** to George **CROGHAN**, 217-20; and Series 21655, Hugh **MERCER** to John Stanwix and Hugh **MERCER** to William **BYRD**, 81-3.

¹²⁷ **JORDAN**, ed., "Journal of James **KENNY**, 1761-1763," vol. 37, no. 1 (1913) 43.

¹²⁸ **STEVENS** and **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry BOUQUET*, Series 21655, Journal of Lt. Thomas **HUTCHINS**, 167-74, and Report of Conference with Mingo Indians, 192-4.

¹²⁹ **JORDAN**, ed., "Journal of James **KENNY**, 1761-1763," vol. 37, no. 1 (1913) 27-8.

¹³⁰ **JORDAN**, ed., "Journal of James **KENNY**, 1761-1763," vol. 37, no. 2 (1913) 187.

Eventually the Indians' vexation boiled over into widespread violence, and in late spring of 1763 Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, attempted to take Detroit, commencing what has been called "Pontiac's War." Other Indians from the Illinois country, the Great Lakes region, and the Ohio territory joined the cause against the British. Among the British forts taken were those north of Fort Pitt to Lake Erie (Venango, Le Boeuf, and Presque Isle),¹³¹ and Fort Pitt was attacked and besieged, apparently by Delaware Indians.¹³² Meanwhile Delaware and Shawnee war parties again raided deep into Pennsylvania and Virginia. In July of that year Colonel **BOUQUET** led about 500 British soldiers to relieve Fort Pitt. Some of the Indians laying the siege left to ambush the advancing British. About 25 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, near today's Harrison City in Westmoreland County, the Indians were defeated in the Battle of Bushy Run.¹³³ With that the siege of Fort Pitt was lifted.

To appease the Indians, the Royal Proclamation of 1763 was issued in October restricting white settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, but whites already lived there and more wanted to. As white settlement increased west of the mountains in spite of the Proclamation and British efforts to discourage it, raids on the frontier resumed in the spring of 1764. In late 1764 **BOUQUET** led a force of over 1000 men from Fort Pitt to the Tuscarawas and Muskingum Rivers in Ohio, near the Delaware towns. That led to the Indians suing for peace and their surrender of captives.¹³⁴

There are no records or reports of **KILLBUCK**'s activities, nor of the **SCHOOLCRAFT**s', during the period of Pontiac's War. After its conclusion, however, as was mentioned above, **KILLBUCK** was active in peace initiatives, and the **SCHOOLCRAFT**s sold their land on Elkhorn Run and moved south to now Highland County, Virginia.

Possibility of John SCHOOLCRAFT connecting with KILLBUCK's daughter

One result of relating the foregoing details of **KILLBUCK**'s life is seeing the contrast between him and Astien **SCHOOLCRAFT** and his family. We know so much more about **KILLBUCK** as a person than we do of the **SCHOOLCRAFT**s. **KILLBUCK** was not an ordinary Indian, and for good or for bad, he had an impact on his time. He was influential though not a chief as were his father and son. In contrast we can only guess that Astien and his family were likely hunters and farmers living on the edge of white civilization. The appraisement of Mathias' estate reveals he had meager possessions: Three pewter plates and four spoons, one broad axe and tomahawk, one branding iron, one blanket, bedtick and 3 pounds of feathers, and one knife, for a total value of fifteen shillings and nine pence.¹³⁵ Probably the Indians took his gun and whatever other possessions he had with him when he was killed in 1781. An overarching impression is that without more, coming from such dissimilar families – not due just to race but to differing roles on life's stage as well – marriage between John **SCHOOLCRAFT** and **KILLBUCK**'s daughter seems highly improbable.

¹³¹ Francis **PARKMAN**, *The Conspiracy of Pontiac*, (New York: Library Classics of the United States, Inc., 1991) 631.

¹³² *Ibid.*, 638-9.

¹³³ *Ibid.*, 663-70; Bushy Run Battlefield Heritage Society and Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, *History of the Battle of Bushy Run*, <https://bushyrunbattlefield.com/history/battle-of-bushy-run/> (10 Feb 2018).

¹³⁴ **PARKMAN**, *The Conspiracy of Pontiac*, 771-95.

¹³⁵ Harrison County, West Virginia, County Court Records.

If **KILLBUCK** and possibly other Indians were present in the South Branch area before the spring of 1754, Astien and his son John could have made their acquaintance. One assumes that before the French and Indian War **KILLBUCK** and other Indians traveled with their families, unless on the warpath, and John could have met **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or another Indian girl. Knowing what we do of **KILLBUCK**'s marauding from 1756 to 1758, one would not expect his family to have accompanied him into western Virginia during those years. John would have been 13-14 years old when the Indians left in 1754 and 15-16, when **KILLBUCK**'s attacks began in 1756. Normal convention would dictate he was not yet married at those ages.

John likely married in the period from 1760 to 1762, between the end of the French and Indian War and the commencement of Pontiac's War. As mentioned above, his son Leonard was said to have been about sixteen years old when he was captured in the spring of 1779, and therefore he was born about 1763. If John had met **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or any other Indian girl before the Indians left in 1754, her leaving and the commencement of hostilities would have prevented a continuation of their relationship into his adulthood in the South Branch area!

After relative peace came by 1758-1759 it is highly unlikely that **KILLBUCK** or any other Indian man showed his face in the South Branch settlements, then or for many years thereafter. There they would have had targets on their backs, and certainly Indian men would not have risked bringing their families into an area which could have presented danger for them as well. Indeed, in early July 1761 **KILLBUCK** told James Kenny at Pittsburgh that money had been offered for killing him during the war and that he would be killed if he went toward the inhabitants on the way to Philadelphia, meaning those living on the frontier.¹³⁶ By himself or with his family **KILLBUCK** likely never returned to the South Branch area, and an Indian woman traveling there alone, without a male companion, is implausible. The conclusion is inescapable: If John did not leave the South Branch, he could not have married an Indian woman!

Could John have met or become reacquainted with **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or another Indian woman at Pittsburgh? Indians frequently visited Fort Pitt to obtain food and trade their pelts for goods. On July 28, 1759, Colonel **MERCER** reported two hundred Indians visiting the fort, their number varying from day to day, and that their camp was across the Ohio River. He said they had fed and clothed 1200 Indians since the British had arrived.¹³⁷ Some Indians brought their squaws to Fort Pitt, and they had to be fed too.¹³⁸ It's probable they brought children as well. On August 15 of that same year, Colonel **MERCER** reported that the Indians were starving when at home because of the loss of their corn fields the previous fall, and "they come with Shoals of useless fry to prey upon us (wanting food)" – "fry," meaning people, especially children, although he did not say "small fry."¹³⁹ **KILLBUCK** was there at times in April, May, June and July of 1759, in July of 1761, in March of 1762, and probably at other times as well. It is possible his family accompanied him.

¹³⁶ **JORDAN**, ed., "Journal of James **KENNY**, 1761-1763," vol. 37, no. 1 (1913), 10.

¹³⁷ **STEVENS** and **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry **BOUQUET***, Series 21655, Hugh **MERCER** to John Stanwix, 56-7

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*, Hugh **MERCER** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 60-2.

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*, Hugh **MERCER** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 78-9.

At first, supplying the garrison at Fort Pitt with food and supplies was dependent on convoys from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, including the South Branch Valley. On January 3rd, 1759, Colonel **MERCER** reported that one **MCCULLOCH** was the first adventurer from the South Branch, bringing one hundred good hogs, some salt and sundry necessities.¹⁴⁰ This was John **MCCULLOCH**, a trader, who owned land a mile or so above the Trough on the South Branch.¹⁴¹ On September 1st, 1759, while on **BRADDOCK**'s Road back to Philadelphia, James **KENNY** reported that people from the South Branch were "in droves along the road to Pittsburgh, some with flour & some with corn oats butter cheese etc."¹⁴²

There is no evidence that John accompanied one or more of those convoys to Pittsburgh, but the possibility exists that he did and met there with **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or another Indian woman he had known before 1754. However, the odds are quite small that a) he happened to participate in a convoy which happened to arrive when she was there, and b) they happened to re-connect. Even if he did re-connect, he likely would have had second thoughts about taking her back to the post-war South Branch, giving consideration to the settlers' likely animosity toward Indians and desire for retribution, especially if she was **KILLBUCK**'s daughter.

Another possibility is that John could have become newly acquainted with a young Indian woman at Pittsburgh. However, the impression from reading **BOUQUET**'s Papers is that in order to minimize the outlay of provisions, the horses and men in convoys didn't tarry at Fort Pitt. Also, at least early on, horses and wagons were needed back where they had originated to get more supplies for that fort or one of the other British forts.¹⁴³ So to say that John in short order first accompanied a convoy to Pittsburgh, met an Indian woman there, and then wooed her to return with him to the South Branch is a huge stretch of imagination. Plus, he would have had the same second thoughts about taking any Indian woman back to the South Branch.

By 1761-1763 farmers began settling in the vicinity of Fort Pitt and other forts which became more independent. Oats, Indian corn and vegetables were grown at Pittsburgh,¹⁴⁴ and forty miles south at Redstone Old Fort on the Monongahela, a "cropmaster" was growing corn and other crops to send down the river.¹⁴⁵ That fort, initially known as Fort Burd, was used as a supply depot for grains and flour coming from Fort Cumberland and the South Branch and destined for Fort Pitt.¹⁴⁶ Although demand for beef and pork from the South Branch likely remained high, the frequency of convoys from there to Fort Pitt probably decreased. By 1761 the South Branch is not mentioned in the **BOUQUET** Papers as a source of supplies. Fewer convoys would have meant diminishing opportunities for John to meet an Indian woman at Fort Pitt. This was at a time when John was most likely starting his marriage.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, Series 21644, Part I, Hugh **MERCER** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 1-2.

¹⁴¹ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 6 (2016) 126.

¹⁴² **JORDAN**, ed., "James Kenny's Journal to ye Westward, 1758-1759," 444.

¹⁴³ **STEVENS** and **KENT**, ed., *The Papers of Col. Henry BOUQUET*, Series 21644, Part II, James Dow to Henry **BOUQUET**, 77-8, George **MERCER** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 94-6; Series 21655, Hugh **MERCER** to John Stanwix, 56.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, Series 21648 Part I, Thomas Barnsley to Henry **BOUQUET**, 144-5.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, Series 21647, Angus **MCDONALD** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 205, 220; Series 21648 Part I, Angus **MCDONALD** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 67, 75-6.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*, Series 21645, Angus **MCDONALD** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 248; Series 21646, Angus **MCDONALD** to Henry **BOUQUET**, 49.

If John did not establish or re-establish a relationship with **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or some other Indian woman at Pittsburgh, to do so he would have had to travel on foot and/or horseback to the Indian towns in northwestern Pennsylvania or in Ohio. Most would agree such travel to a distant place, which we can safely assume was unfamiliar to him, and which even in that time of relative peace would have exposed him to a potentially hostile environment, would have been perilous. To aver that John traveled from the South Branch to Indian towns to gain an Indian wife strains credibility past the breaking point.

Since it appears John probably did not connect with **KILLBUCK**'s daughter or any other Indian woman by 1762 on the South Branch, at Pittsburgh, or at the Indian towns in order to have a son Leonard born in 1763, the conclusion to be drawn is that he did not marry an Indian woman, and particularly not the daughter of **KILLBUCK**.

John SCHOOLCRAFT's wife's name was Elizabeth

The assignment of the Elkhorn Run land in 1766 was signed by Astien and John and by two women: Catherine, Astien's wife; and Elsebuth, who can be safely assumed to be John's wife. Astien appears as "Osten," Catherine appears as "Catren," and **SCHOOLCRAFT** appears as "Scolcraft." Those and other tortured spellings in the document suggest that John's wife was named Elisabeth or Elizabeth. All four signed by their marks, so the spellings were the creation of the document's author. The wives signed to relinquish any inchoate rights they had under the dower provision in the law.

One might argue with some authority that it was common in those days for Indian women to adopt anglicized names in the white settlements, and that Elizabeth was one of those adopted names. However, the assignment document contains the only known appearance of John's wife's name in an original, primary source or piece of evidence. Ed **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s article and all the contemporary genealogies and other writings resulting from that article, showing Miotoka **NYESWANAN** as John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s wife, are secondary evidence which, based on hearsay and speculation, should be completely discounted in the presence of the contrary primary source. Nowhere does the name Miotoka **NYESWANAN**, nor any name other than Elsebuth in the Assignment, appear in any source whatsoever prior to Mrs. **COSGROVE**'s revelation. **WITHERS** did not mention any name for Mrs. **SCHOOLCRAFT** in his account, nor did **MCWHORTER**. The sheer volume of recent genealogies and writings does not outweigh the one piece of primary evidence. Until such time as Mrs. **COSGROVE**'s purported Jacob **BRAKE** journal becomes available to the public as a primary source and is subjected to scrutiny for authenticity, veracity, and accuracy, or until some other primary source surfaces, Mrs. John **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s name at least in 1766 must be Elizabeth, not Miotoka **NYESWANAN**.

Leonard was likely named for an elder relative in either his mother's or father's family. No elder Leonard **SCHOOLCRAFT** is known, so most likely the son was named for someone in his mother's family, e.g., her father or grandfather. Genealogy sleuths should look for a contemporary Leonard having a daughter named Elizabeth. One possibility would be in the **HYRE** family, also spelled **HEYER**, **HIRE**, and **HYER**. In 1737 one Leonard (Lienart) **HEYER** with his family immigrated from Benken, Switzerland. He first settled in Tulpehocken, Berks

County, Pennsylvania,¹⁴⁷ and then by 1748 he lived on the South Branch near present day Petersburg, West Virginia,¹⁴⁸ as mentioned earlier. Leonard was a common name among his descendants. Some of them settled in the vicinity of the **SCHOOLCRAFT** claims on Finks Run in now Upshur County, West Virginia, and one should recall the mention earlier of one John **HYRE** having buried the victims of the 1779 massacre. Was he more than a good citizen? Could he have been burying family? Another possibility would be Leonard **REED** whose judgment against Daniel **RICHARDSON** was mentioned in the settlement of the latter's estate along with Astien **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s claim.¹⁴⁹ **REED** was killed in the Battle of the Trough.¹⁵⁰

Connection with **BRAKE** family

As the story goes, the wife of Jacob **BRAKE** Sr., the father of Jacob **BRAKE** Jr., the captive, was a Miss **NYESWANAN**. To the contrary there is substantial primary evidence that she was Elizabeth **COOPER**, the daughter of Jacob **COOPER** who died in 1758 in Frederick County, Virginia. A German immigrant who had changed the spelling of his name from "**KIEFFER**" to "**COOPER**," he left a will in which his beneficiaries were his son, Jacob **COOPER**, and daughters, Magden and Elsebth.¹⁵¹ The will was filed by Magdalen **NISEWANGER** and Elizabeth **BRAKE** and admitted to probate on 6 September 1758.¹⁵² The decedent, Jacob **COOPER**, had owned land in Frederick County, and after his death it was sold by lease and release on 6 and 7 September 1762 by Jacob **BRAKE** and Elizabeth **BRAKE**, his wife, and John **NISEWANGER** and Magdaline **NISEWANGER**, his wife. The documents were recorded on 3 May 1763.¹⁵³

Jacob **BRAKE** Sr. had six children: Mary Magdalen, born 3 June 1751; John, born 15 June 1754; Elizabeth, born 22 or 27 February 1757; Isaac, born about 1760; Abraham, born in August 1763; and Jacob, Jr., the captive, born between 1750 and 1755.¹⁵⁴ From Jacob **COOPER**'s estate proceeding mentioned above, Elizabeth is known to be Jacob **BRAKE**'s wife at least from 1758 to 1762. As will be recounted below, Abram **BRAKE**, son of Jacob Jr., said Jacob Sr.'s wife had six children before her death. While there is no primary evidence to establish that Elizabeth was the mother of the first four children, the fact that her first daughter was named Mary Magdalen, the same name as Elizabeth's sister, suggests that Elizabeth was her mother and therefore the

¹⁴⁷ Albert Bernhardt **FAUST** and Gaius Marcus **BRUMBAUGH**, comp. & ed., *Lists of Swiss Immigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the America Colonies* (**WASHINGTON**: The National Genealogical Society, 1925) vol. 2, 110-2.

¹⁴⁸ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 3 (2013) 35.

¹⁴⁹ **CHALKLEY**, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia*, vol. 3, 58, excerpting from Augusta County Will Book No. 2, 388.

¹⁵⁰ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 6 (2016) 66

¹⁵¹ Frederick County, Virginia, Will Book 2, 318-20.

¹⁵² *Ibid.*

¹⁵³ Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book 8, 335. Note: "Lease and release" is a now obsolete form of conveyance of real property in which the owner leases land to a tenant for one year, and then a day later the owner releases his reversionary interest under the lease, vesting fee title in the tenant.

¹⁵⁴ David **ARMSTRONG**, "The **BRAKE** Massacre and the First Mrs. **BRAKE**," *Hackers Creek Journal*, vol. XI, no. 2 (1993) 117; Perry **BRAKE**, *My Heritage – The BRAKE Line*, Buzz **BRAKE**'s Web, <http://www.perrybrake.com/> (10 Feb 2018).

mother of all six children. In the absence of contrary evidence, the conclusion must be that Jacob **BRAKE** Jr.'s mother was Elizabeth **COOPER BRAKE**, not Miss **NYESWANAN**. Almost immediately after the **COOPER** land sale, Jacob **BRAKE** Sr. and family, presumably including his wife Elizabeth, moved to what is now Hardy County, West Virginia, on the South Fork of the South Branch. There as Jacob **BRECHTEL** he acquired 640 acres by lease and release dated 5 and 6 May 1763, described as Lot 1 of the survey done by John **GENN**'s team, including the 16-year old George **WASHINGTON**, which had been sent to the area by Lord **FAIRFAX** in 1748.¹⁵⁵ This tract is at the far southern limit of the Northern Neck on the Fairfax Line.

In the sale of the Frederick County land Jacob **BRAKE** Sr. signed by his mark **IB**, and it is by this same mark that he later in Hardy County signed the documents mentioned below. Thus, there is little doubt that the Jacob **BRAKE** in Frederick County is the same person as the Jacob **BRECHTEL/BRAKE** in Hardy County. The close relation between the dates of the sale in Frederick County and the purchase of Lot 1 in Hardy County suggests that Jacob Sr. used his wife's proceeds from the sale of her father's land to make the purchase.

KERCHEVAL and other writers, probably taking his lead, have told of the death of a Mrs. **BRAKE**. He said she was the wife of a John **BRAKE**, and Dr. **TURLEY**, who was quoted by **KERCHEVAL**, said her death occurred just prior to the Battle of the Trough which occurred in 1756 as mentioned earlier. This could not have been Elizabeth **COOPER BRAKE** who was bearing children after 1756 and was handling her father's estate in Frederick County until 1762-3. Both **KERCHEVAL** and Dr. **TURLEY** said Mrs. **BRAKE** was killed by Indians on the South Fork of the South Branch, and **TURLEY** said it occurred about fifteen miles above Moorefield.¹⁵⁶ That's approximately where Jacob **BRAKE** Sr. lived beginning in 1763, so if **KERCHEVAL** and **TURLEY** are referring to Elizabeth **BRAKE**, they're correct about the location, but not about the time.

Elizabeth probably died during Pontiac's War from 1763 to 1765, on the occasion of the capture of Jacob Jr. Jacob Sr. then married Catherine **STUMP**, daughter of Michael **STUMP** and Anna Catherine **NEFF**.¹⁵⁷ Michael **STUMP** and Leonard **NEFF** were early settlers on the South Fork of the South Branch, below Jacob **BRAKE**'s Lot 1.¹⁵⁸ In 1775 Jacob and Catherine **BRAKE** sold a 200-acre tract to John **WOLFE**,¹⁵⁹ and in 1807 they deeded Lot 1 and other land on the South Fork to their son, Michael **BRAKE**.¹⁶⁰ Jacob Sr. died in 1808 or early 1809.¹⁶¹

¹⁵⁵ Linda **MYERS**, "Where was Jacob **BRAKE** in 1756? Who Were his Wives? Where Did He Die?" *Hackers Creek Journal*, vol. XI, no. 2 (1993) 126; **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 2 (2012) 162-3.

¹⁵⁶ **KERCHEVAL**, *A History of the Valley of Virginia*, 75, 92.

¹⁵⁷ **MYERS**, "Where was Jacob **BRAKE** in 1756?," *Hackers Creek Journal*, 122-8.

¹⁵⁸ **RICE**, *Colonial Records*, vol. 3 (2013) 6-8.

¹⁵⁹ Hardy County, West Virginia, Deed Book 4, 102-3. See the map of the Elkhorn area shown earlier for the tract of Nicholas **SMITH**.

¹⁶⁰ Hardy County, West Virginia, Deed Book 6, 56-8.

¹⁶¹ **MYERS**, "Where was Jacob **BRAKE** in 1756?," *Hackers Creek Journal*, 128.

Abram BRAKE's letter and confusion

One cannot help but notice that Elizabeth COOPER's sister's married name was NISEWANGER, and in spelling and phonetics that's close to NYESWANAN. In 1867 Mrs. Laura JACKSON ARNOLD of Buckhannon, West Virginia, sent a letter to George JACKSON, discussing a letter she had received from Abram W. BRAKE, a son of Jacob BRAKE Jr. In that letter Abram said his grandfather Jacob BRAKE Sr. "married a Miss NYESWANAN for his first wife, and after she had six children she was killed by the Indians on the South Branch where they had always lived."¹⁶² Note: He did NOT say Miss NYESWANAN was an Indian! As shown above, Jacob BRAKE Sr. and his wife Elizabeth COOPER likely did have six children before she was apparently killed by Indians. Abram could not have known his grandmother BRAKE and likely never knew her sister, Magdalen. It's very likely Abram confused the married name of his great aunt – NISEWANGER – with his grandmother's maiden surname. Abram's letter is the first known mention of the name "NYESWANAN."

Refuting Mrs. COSGROVE's statements

Janet COSGROVE gave copies of other letters from Buckhannon to Ed SCHOOLCRAFT, and it's very possible that Mrs. Arnold's letter, or a copy, was also in Mrs. COSGROVE's possession. It's possible that that letter mentioning Miss NYESWANAN is Janet's source of the name, and it's further possible that the so-called journal of which Janet speaks is no more than Mrs. Arnold's letter. All too plausible to be dismissed. The purported content of the journal, as described by Mrs. COSGROVE, is improbable. Jacob BRAKE Sr.'s wife was Elizabeth COOPER, and she, not a Miss NYESWANAN, was most likely his first wife. And, as above described, it is highly unlikely John SCHOOLCRAFT married an Indian woman.

Linda MEYERS reported in her article in the *Hackers Creek Journal* that she asked Janet a number of questions about the BRAKE journal.¹⁶³ In answer Janet said Jacob BRAKE Jr., the captive, signed the journal, yet we know he was likely illiterate, unable to sign his name in a deed,¹⁶⁴ and therefore unable to write and sign a journal. Janet said the journal was written in a small book "feed companies gave to farmers." Jacob died in 1831, and, as Linda said, while grist mills then existed, it is doubtful that their owners gave away paper booklets. Janet also said she couldn't photocopy the journal, because it was written in pencil. Linda says pencils were then "an expensive, precious commodity and were not readily available until the Civil War." Janet said the reason she wouldn't release the journal was because she wanted it printed in the *Hackers Creek Journal*. It has not appeared there, and in conversation with Joy DEFAZIO who has been its editor continuously since its inception in 1982, she said Janet has never offered it for publication.¹⁶⁵

Linnie Louise BRAKE CUNNINGHAM, a great-great-granddaughter of Jacob, Jr., wrote of him: "He was ever taciturn, and in his old days would sit for hours contentedly smoking his pipe saying nothing to anyone. No doubt this trait of taciturnity was largely the reason that we know no more of his life. He talked very little, unless questioned, and consequently his family

¹⁶² *Ibid.*, 127.

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*, 122-3.

¹⁶⁴ Lewis County, West Virginia, Deed Book C, 204.

¹⁶⁵ Phone conversation with Joy DeFazio, January 2, 2018.

failed to learn those things which we today would like to know.”¹⁶⁶ His reluctance to talk, coupled with the fact that he was likely illiterate, doesn’t describe a man who had the verbal skills to keep a journal filled with names, dates and events.

In early 2017 Mary **SCHOOLCRAFT CHENOWETH** was in contact with Mrs. **COSGROVE** who told her the journal was in a “bank vault” and would be given to the West Virginia Archives (and History) in Charleston. When that would occur, she did not say. She also sent Mary a photograph purporting to be of Miotoka **NYESWANAN**. Photography wasn’t even invented until nearly sixty years after Mrs. **SCHOOLCRAFT**’s death in 1779!¹⁶⁷

Mrs. **COSGROVE**’s story of the journal, including its physical form, has many holes, and because of that its existence is highly suspect. Her refusal or failure to release the journal to the public over the course of nearly thirty years is a strong indicator that it does not exist. (Might Janet have borrowed the name “Miotoka” from “Matoaka,” Chief Powhattan’s daughter, more familiarly known as “Pocahontas”?)

Summary and Conclusions

While Astien **SCHOOLCRAFT** and his family could have known **KILLBUCK** or other Indians in the South Branch Valley, it is most unlikely that his son John could have courted and married **KILLBUCK**’s daughter or any other Indian woman after 1754 when the Indians left the South Branch, and particularly during and for several years after the French and Indian War – the time during which he probably was married. The foregoing analysis has come as close as it can to proving that John **SCHOOLCRAFT** did not marry an Indian woman. Jacob **BRAKE** Sr.’s probable first wife was Elizabeth **COOPER**, not Miss **NYESWANAN**, a surname likely confused with **NISEWANGER**, Elizabeth’s sister’s married name.

The author learned that Mrs. **COSGROVE** died in August, 2017 and spoke with her daughter with whom Janet had lived for many years. She did not know of a Jacob **BRAKE** journal, nor whether Janet had owned a safety deposit box.¹⁶⁸ The author sent a letter asking her to keep an eye out for the journal when going through her mother’s possessions. A representative of the West Virginia Archives and History, with whom the author spoke, said they have no record of Janet **COSGROVE** submitting any material, nor of any holding relating to Jacob **BRAKE**. Barring something unforeseen, the trail appears to be cold and the conclusion must be that the journal of Jacob **BRAKE** Jr. does not exist. We’re left only with Janet’s hearsay and perhaps her imagination, plus Ed **SCHOOLCRAFT**’s speculation.

If the name “**NYESWANAN**” originated from a confused recollection of the name “**NISEWANGER**” in the **BRAKE** family, as it appears to have, then there’s no basis for tying it to John **SCHOOLCRAFT**’s wife. There is no primary evidence that Miotoka **NYESWANAN** or even Miotoka **NISEWANGER** was his wife. It’s not up to doubters to disprove that Miotoka was his wife; it’s up to those who allege that as fact to prove it by something more than hearsay and speculation. So far, no such proof exists. Janet **COSGROVE**’s oral tale, Ed

¹⁶⁶ Linnie Louise **BRAKE** Cunningham, *The BRAKE Family in West Virginia* (1946), reprinted in part in Hackers Creek Journal, vol. 4, no. 3 (1986), 131

¹⁶⁷ Conversations with Mrs. Chenoweth, Horner, WV, May 2017.

¹⁶⁸ Phone conversation with Jessica **COSGROVE**, January 1, 2018.

SCHOOLCRAFT's article, and the genealogies and writings based on it are not proof. I knew Ed well, and I believe he would be dismayed to know how the story has spread as fact. Unless new evidence arises, it can only be said with certainty that Mrs. **SCHOOLCRAFT**'s given name in 1766 was Elizabeth. The inferences from existing evidence are that she was not an Indian woman and not the daughter of **KILLBUCK**.

Another Purported Indian Wife

As seen above, James **SCHOOLCRAFT**, John's brother, was baptized in 1743 at Schoharie, New York, and he accompanied the pioneer family to West Virginia. He claimed land next to Astien's on Finks Run in 1774. In 1784 he appeared on the List of Inhabitants of Harrison County with eight family members, living in the Hacker's Creek area of present-day Lewis County.¹⁶⁹ In 1785 he petitioned Harrison County to support his mother, Catherine, and levies for her benefit continued into 1787.¹⁷⁰ He last appeared on the Personal Property Tax List of Harrison County in 1794, charged with two tithables, i.e., males of legal age.¹⁷¹ Circumstances indicate that the second male born about 1774 was James Jr., who the author believes is his third great-grandfather. There is circumstantial evidence, though inconclusive, that pioneer James moved to Kentucky. A James Sr. first appeared on a tax list there in Madison County in 1796, in an area that became part of Garrard County the next year,¹⁷² and he last appeared by himself, over 45 years of age, on the 1810 Federal census in Pulaski County.

Many genealogists now say without citing any authority, other than another family tree, that the wife of pioneer James was "Elizabeth Shawnee" or "Elizabeth, a Shawnee." The author has never seen any sort of evidence to that effect – that her given name was Elizabeth or that she was a Shawnee Indian – and therefore such assertion is pure imaginative fabrication.

Author

The author of this monograph is now retired, living in Fort Myers, Florida. He graduated from Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, and Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., and then practiced law in Illinois for over twenty years before becoming an underwriter/manager with Chicago Title Insurance Company. His specialty has been real estate law. He has engaged in genealogical and historical research for nearly sixty years, including focus on the **SCHOOLCRAFT** Family, and has written a guide for research in Virginia/West Virginia and numerous published articles. He may be contacted at ecomantoo@comcast.net and welcomes any additional evidence regarding the identity of the wife or wives of either John or James **SCHOOLCRAFT**.

¹⁶⁹ Harrison County, West Virginia, County Court Minute Book 1 (1785-1792), 10.

¹⁷⁰ *Ibid.*, 38, 40, 47, 94, 133, 161, 240, and 246.

¹⁷¹ Harrison County, West Virginia, Personal Property Tax Lists, Family History Library Film #847163.

¹⁷² Madison County, Kentucky, Tax Lists, Family History Library Film #8126.

???QUERIES???

1. Seeking information on, and descendants of Sarah Amanda **CRAWFORD**, daughter of John **CRAWFORD** (c.1805-1858) and his first wife, Nancy **CONRAD** (1815-1849). In the 1850 census, she is listed as eleven and living with her father and her stepmother, Mary (nee **WILSON**); in the 1860 census, she is listed as nineteen and living with her uncle and aunt, Robert and Hester (**WOOD**) **CRAWFORD**. In 1865 she married David Charles **GIBSON**, and they evidently left Lewis County before 1870--I believe for Missouri. I've seen a letter from their son Robert L. **GIBSON** to his great-aunt Hester **CRAWFORD**, probably in the late 1870s. Does anyone reading this know more about this family? Mary **CLAWSEY**, 5711 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209
aida1299@hotmail.com
2. This one isn't about genealogy, but some member may know the answer to a West Virginia history question that has been tantalizing me for years: Since West Virginia had been a state for less than two weeks at the time of the Battle of Gettysburg, no US flags had yet been manufactured with 35 stars, so one West Virginia regiment at Gettysburg cut a star from the flag of another state's regiment and sewed it to theirs. The question is, WHERE DID THEY PUT IT?! If the 34-star flag they were carrying was one of those with the stars in two concentric circles with an additional one in each corner of the field, it's fun to think that they sewed the donated or pilfered one right in the middle, but one Civil War enthusiast has said that they placed it modestly just to the right of the field. Anyone out there know for sure? We didn't learn that tidbit even in Mrs. Dolan's class! about this family? Mary **CLAWSEY**, 5711 Falls Road, Baltimore, MD 21209
aida1299@hotmail.com
3. Searching for photos and additional personal information/stories on Bertha Ellen (**SPAUR**) **DENNISON**, born 21 January 1890 in Braxton County, WV to Isaac Washington and Permilia Alice (**REEDER**) **SPAUR**. Died 13 July 1920 in Enid, OK. Married to John Curry **DENNISON**, Jr., on 24 April 1905 in Newville, Braxton County, WV. Marlene **MCCUTCHEON KALTENBACH** and Pauline **COZBI (DENNISON) MCCUTCHEON**, 702 Cameron Road, New Castle, PA 16101-2906,
sheepbarngirl18@hotmail.com
4. Searching for final resting place and photos of Kathryn (**MURPHY**) **DENNISON** born 5 August 1917 in Butcher's Fork, Gilmer county, WV, to Edward and Margaret (**RUSH**) **MURPHY**. Died 15 October 1975 but not sure where, last known residence was Houston, TX, area. Married to Jack Morrison **DENNISON** on 24 January 1929 in Lewis County. Marlene **MCCUTCHEON KALTENBACH** and Pauline **COZBI (DENNISON) MCCUTCHEON**, 702 Cameron Road, New Castle, PA 16101-2906,
sheepbarngirl18@hotmail.com
5. Searching for photos and more personal information/ stories on Annie (**SHEPLER**) **DENNISON** born 13 July 1856 to Solomon and Sarah B. **SHEPLER** in Hardy County, WV. Died April 3, 1922, in Bendale, Lewis County, WV. Married to John Curry **DENNISON**, Sr., on 6 December 1876 in Lewis County, WV. Mother to seven children. Marlene **MCCUTCHEON KALTENBACH** and Pauline **COZBI (DENNISON)**

MCCUTCHEON, 702 Cameron Road, New Castle, PA 16101-2906,
sheepbarngirl18@hotmail.com

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8. Looking for information for the **REES** and **RINEHART** families as follows: Anna **REES**, b 12 Nov 1779, Monmouth, NJ; d 8 Apr 1857, Hacker's Creek, Lewis Co., (W)V; John **RINEHART**, b 20 Jun 1774, Manchester, Baltimore, MD; d. aft 1840, Hacker's Creek, Lewis Co., (W)V. Married ca 1800 in Hampshire Co., (W)Va. John has a land grant in Lewis County from the War of 1812 of which I have a copy. I also have some information on the **RINEHART** line but only speculation on the **REES** line. Julane **CURTIS CRABTREE**. 11207 Wilmar Drive, Liberty, MO 64068jbc2007@curtisbrooks.com
9. Searching for photos of Tessie Grace (**WESTFALL**) **DENNISON** born January 11, 1912, in Lewis County, WV, the daughter of Charles and Sylvia (**COURTNEY**) **WESTFALL**. Died 26 May 19129 in Lewis County of typhoid fever. Buried in Machpelah Cemetery, Weston, W. Married to Herbert Curry **DENNISON**, 31 December 1927, in Haleville, Lewis County, WV, Marlene **MCCUTCHEON KALTENBACH** and Pauline **COZBI (DENNISON) MCCUTCHEON**, 702 Cameron Road, New Castle, PA 16101-2906 sheepbarngirl18@hotmail.com
10. Francis **ERWIN**, born in VA.....1794.....eventually moved to Gallia County, Ohio.....married Lucinda (Lucy) **LAWLESS** in Gallia in 1815. Names of his an Lucy's children were in recognition of many children..... of the Edward **ERWIN** and Francis **FRANCIS** immigrant family..... of The Long Glade in Augusta County.....later Highland County, Va. The parents of Francis (b. 1794) are unknown. Any help? Need it badly. Hiram W. **LYNCH**. 5628 Donna Dr., Ashtabula, Ohio 44004 lynch7441@roadrunner.com
11. Searching for photos of Tessie Grace (**WESTFALL**) **DENNISON** born January 11, 1912, in Lewis County, WV, the daughter of Charles and Sylvia (**COURTNEY**) **WESTFALL**. Died 26 May 19129 in Lewis County of typhoid fever. Buried in Machpelah Cemetery, Weston, W. Married to Herbert Curry **DENNISON**, 31 December 1927, in Haleville, Lewis County, WV, Marlene **MCCUTCHEON KALTENBACH** and Pauline **COZBI (DENNISON) MCCUTCHEON**, 702 Cameron Road, New Castle, PA 16101-2906 sheepbarngirl18@hotmail.com

12. Looking for the burial place of Sarah (**RICE**) **VINCENT**, born 1790 in Culpepper, VA, and died 1869, Battelle, Lewis County, WV. She was the wife of John **VINCENT**, who died in 1859 and is buried in Slab Camp Cemetery, Upshur Co., WV Larry **JONES** 415 Knolls Rd., West Chester, PA 19382.
13. Although Elaine **ALLMAN COULTER** has done so much on this family anyone with any other information would be great. One block wall is a Great Grandfather - William Evans **ALLMAN** - Born Wheeling, (W)V, 22 July 1818. I need any proof of this date. Sandie **ALLMAN NAGY**, 911 Desert Shrub Drive, Washington, Utah 84780, snagy@hotmail.com
14. Looking for Descendants of WV **BARTLETTs**. Virtually all the WV **BARTLETTs** descend from Thomas **BARTLETT** born c1733 Richmond Co, VA; died c1806 Harrison Co, (W)VA. You don't need to have the **BARTLETT** surname, just be a descendant through any line. I have amassed over 10,000 descendants (in book format, donated to the HCPD Library), and am particularly interested in any descendant who has taken a DNA test. I am mapping my DNA (linking specific segments of DNA back to specific ancestral lines) – more info about genealogy DNA in my blog: www.segmentology.org Please email me at jim4bartletts@verizon.net Jim **BARTLETT** 7224 Beacon Ter, Bethesda, MD 20817
15. I am searching for information regarding David **SMITH**, b. 1743 in Sussex, NJ, m. Lydia **BALL** in Morris Co. NJ ca 1762-63. His parents are unknown at this time. CHILDREN; (Nancy) Ann **SMITH** m. Alexander **HACKER** Jr; Abigail Ball **SMITH** m. George **COLLINS**; Jonas **SMITH** m. Naomi **MC NEEL/ MC NEAL**; Caleb **SMITH** m. Elizabeth **HARDMAN**; David **SMITH** m. Sarah **HACKER**; (Mary) Susannah **SMITH** m. John **HACKER**; Comfort **SMITH** m. Absolom **MC NEEL/MC NEAL** Comfort and Absolom are my great, great, great grandparents. Absolom and Naomi are children of Thomas **MC NEEL** and Mary **HUGHES IRESON MC NEEL** of Swago Creek in Pocahontas Co., WV. Their mother is the daughter of William **HUGHES**, Jr.. and Molly **DATON**. I believe she is the niece of Thomas **HUGHES** and first cousin to Jesse **HUGHES** and Elias/Ellis **HUGHES**. I am currently working on a **SMITH** family timeline with places between 1778 and 1805. In 1778, they left New Jersey heading for Rockingham County, VA. and Susannah was born on the South Branch of the Potomac. Birthplace of Comfort **SMITH**, b 1782, not known. Comfort **SMITH** and Absolom **MC NEEL** m. 1804 in Harrison Co David **SMITH** in Ohio in 1805 & mentioned again in 1815 and 1820 in Fairfield, Greene County, O.. In 1825-26, David followed his daughter, Ann **SMITH SLEETH**, to live with her children in Shelby Co., INH. Ann d. 1834; David in 1835. They are buried side by side in Marion Cemetery near Shelbyville, IN. In 1810, Comfort **SMITH** and Absolom **MC NEEL** joined family & friends from Pocahontas County and ?Hackers Creek? on a small wagon train to Gallia Co., OH & settled on Racoon Creek. Thomas **MC NEEL**, d. 1794 and is buried in Pocahontas Co., WV. His wife, Mary **HUGHES IRESON MC NEEL** went with the young ones to Gallia County. Looking for details to add to my **SMITH** family timeline. Diane **WITT**, 5123 Stone Mountain Road NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114 <dianecwitt@aol.com>

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